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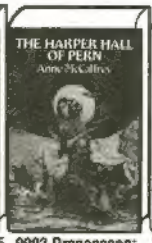

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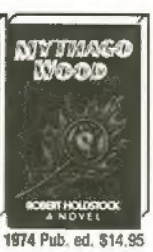

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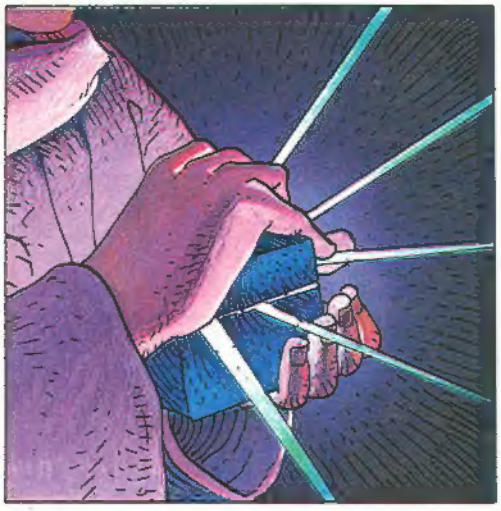
CONTENTS



3 Editorial
6 The Crazy Monk, by Vink
52 Kamikaze Electrik, by Beb Deum
59 The Dream, by Esteban Maroto
66 The Knockout, by Solano Lopez
82 The Experiment, by Justo Jimeno
91 Cinderella, by Rodolphe. Illustrated by Buffin
100 Doctor! Doctor!, by Nicole Claveloux
103 Celestial Venice, by Moebius

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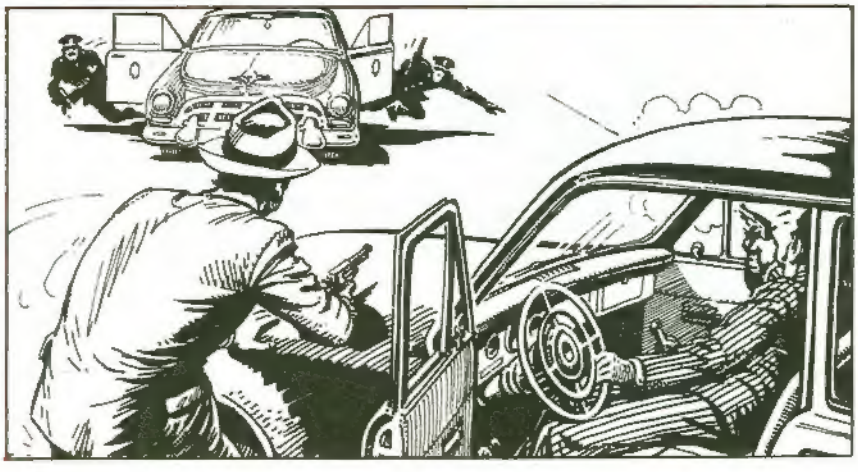

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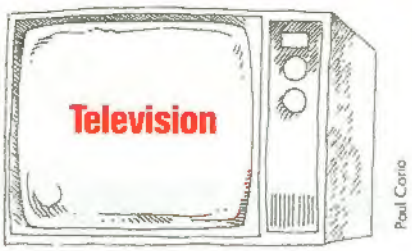
EDITORIAL

The State of Science Fiction and Fantasy, as Presented to the Public



This year, television took what appeared to be one of its more intelligent steps in bringing to the home-screen the creations of Hollywood's most commercially successful film director, Steven Spielberg, and returning to the air, one of the most creative and well-done "mind" adventure programs in the history of the little black box, "The Twilight Zone."

Spielberg made the experiment even more challenging by demanding and getting a two-year, no-cut contract from NBC.

"Twilight Zone" decided to use new material and not to reuse the time-tested Serling stories.

Unfortunately, both well-meant moves have proven to be disastrous.

They have taken science fiction out of television and sent it back to the printed word where, it seems, it is best served these days.

This was not so twenty years ago when Serling's "Twilight Zone," "The Outer Limits," Hitchcock and other consistantly well-done programs left indelible memories.

Spielberg's "Amazing Stories" is Spielberg at his very worst: they are over-lavish, over-produced and poorly conceived. The writing is trite and the underlying message (and why the hell do we even need an underlying message??) is usually childish. Much of it, as in the case of many of Spielberg's movies, are nothing more than rehashes of old movies pulled from his endless memory bank. The worst you can say is that they're bad. The best you can say is, "I missed it last night."

"Twilight Zone" also does not work. Here again, somebody is sending messages, "God is good! God is great!" "Love thy Mother and Father." "Say your prayers at night!" "Drink all your milk." It is network brainwashing geared to an eight-year-old mind, whereas the original "Twilight Zone" was adult and had a chilling wit that made for solid entertainment. This stuff is pure saccharine: it's artificial and leaves a bad after taste. One of its' problems is that it's shot in color (beautiful, maybe, but what a waste). Serling's black and white sparsity made for a simpler, more naked story that messaged the brain.

Alfred Hitchcock has returned, too, and with producers who had enough sense to repeat many of the old Hitchcock scripts, so they are the best written of all of these series. And they are good. Somewhat inconsistant, but good and well worth watching.

Also good and sparse and done with a dash of humor is "Tales from the Darkside." Created by George Romero and Richard Rubinstien whose films are generally third-rate, this is first-rate TV, or at least first-rate syndicated TV. The stuff is almost always interesting, kind of scary and often quite funny.

It proves something that Mr. Spielberg, technically our best director, never quite has learned and that is, when you have a story to tell, the best way to tell it is the simplest, most direct way. Schmaltzy is the word for "Amazing Stories," and the new "Twilight Zone" and schmaltzy isn't scary, nor mind-bending to people with properly working thinking machines.

Will somebody out there in TV land please scare us, dammit! ■

— Ed.

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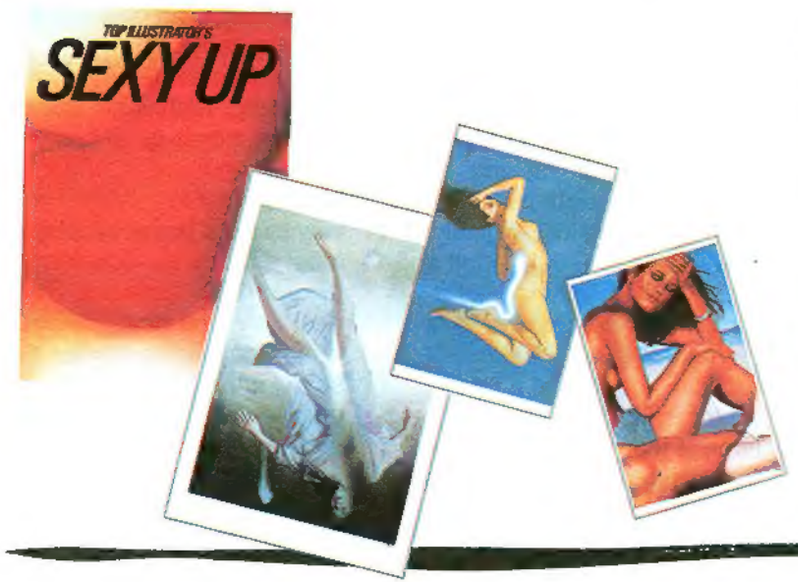

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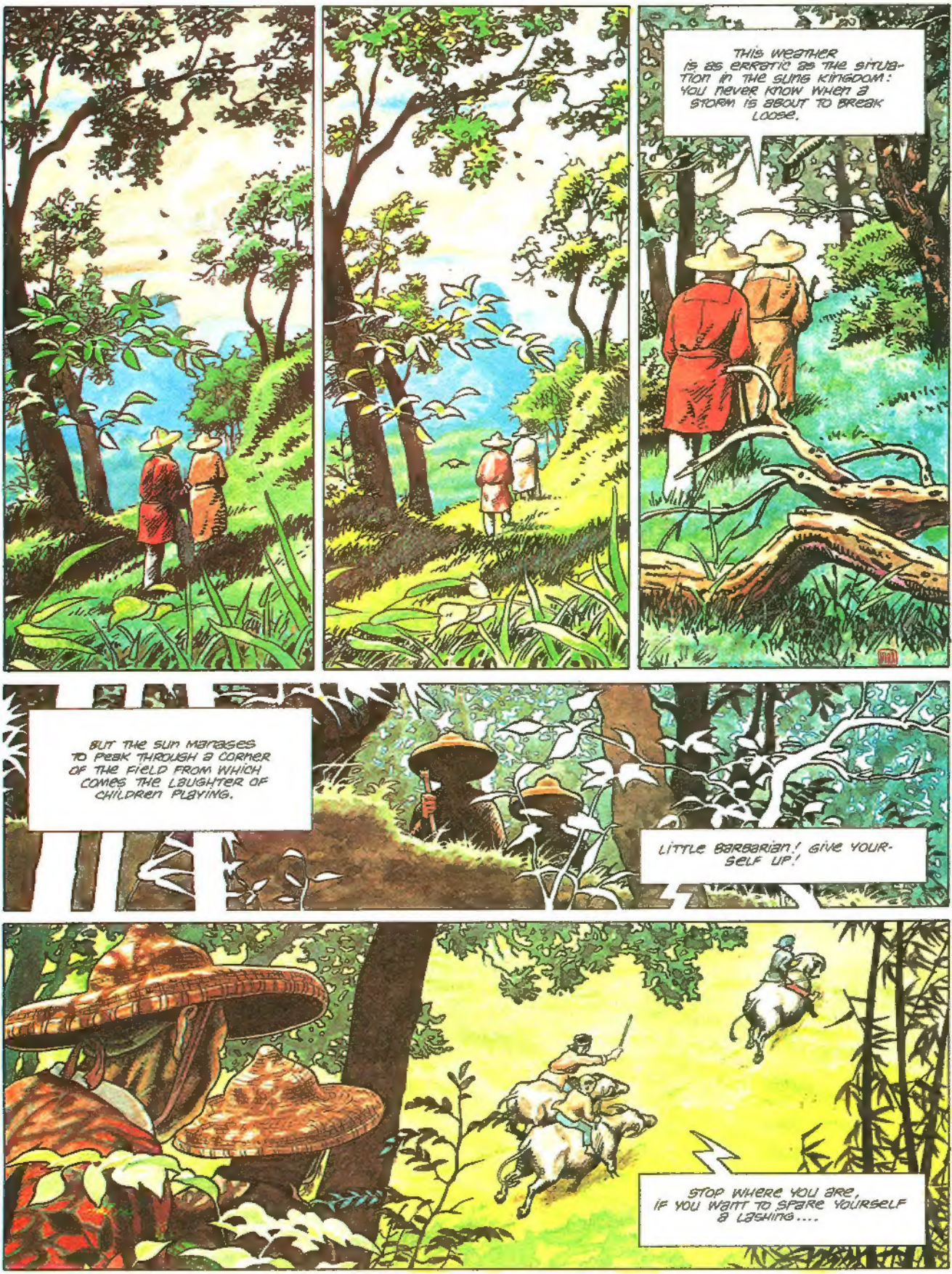
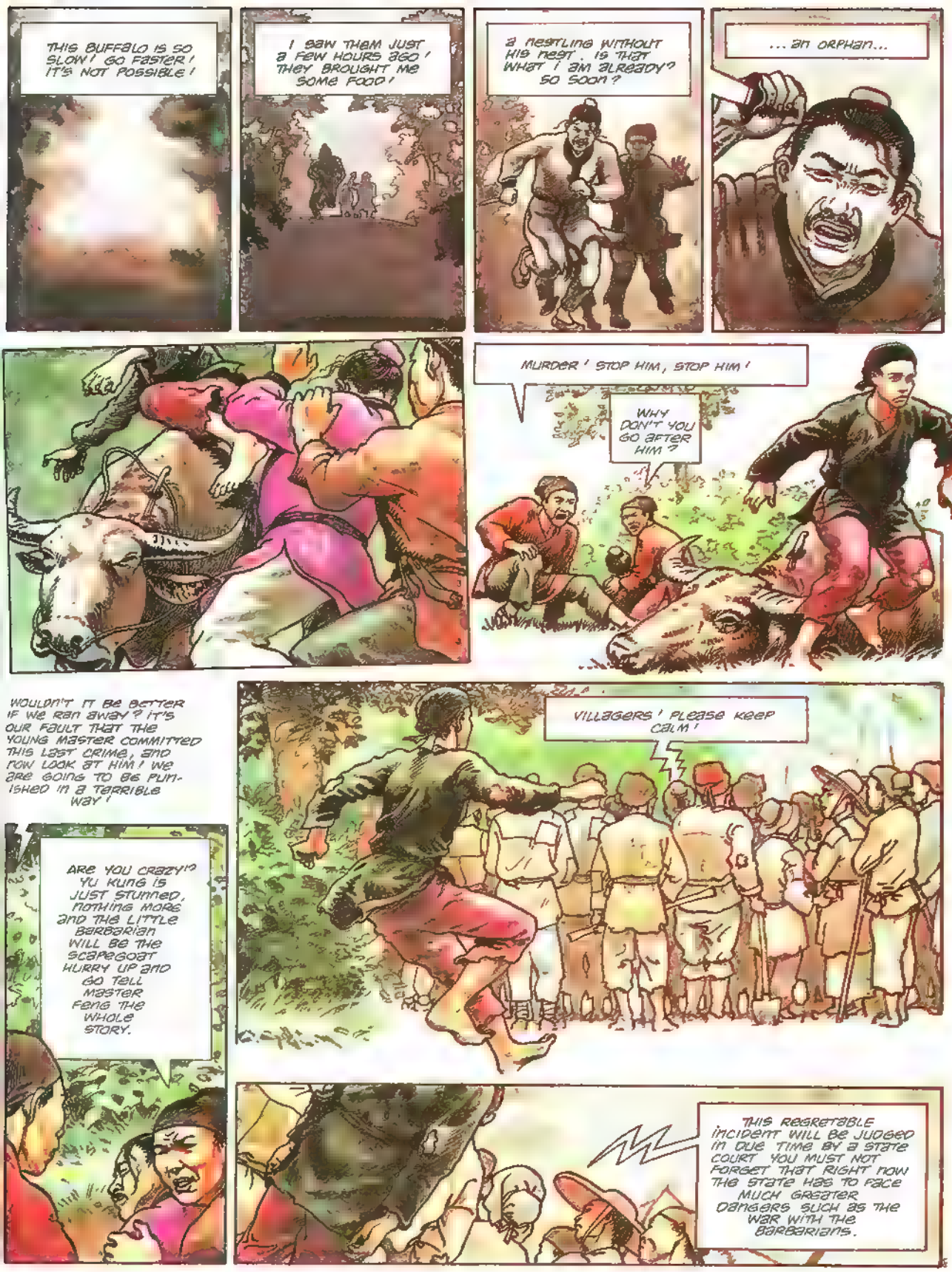

THIS WEATHER IS AS ERRATIC AS THE SITUATION IN THE SUNG KINGDOM: YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN A STORM IS ABOUT TO BREAK LOOSE.
BUT THE SUN MANAGES TO PEEK THROUGH A CORNER OF THE FIELD FROM WHICH COMES THE LAUGHTER OF CHILDREN PLAYING.
LITTLE BARBARIAN! GIVE YOURSELF UP!
STOP WHERE YOU ARE, IF YOU WANT TO SPARE YOURSELF A LASHING....

YOU TWO BABIES! FOR ONCE, I WILL LET YOU WIN. BUT LOOK, MY BUFFALO HAS GONE BERSERK!
SHIT! HE'S RIGHT! HE'S HEADING FOR THE TREE! IT'S SUICIDE....
CAREFUL! I'M SURE IT'S JUST A TRICK...
THAT LITTLE BARBARIAN IS VERY CRAFTY. HE USED THE TREE AS AN OBSTACLE IN ORDER TO SEPARATE HIS PURSUERS.
COME ON, LET'S GO. LET'S LEAVE HIM TO TASTE THE SWEETNESS OF VICTORY. IF HE ONLY KNEW WHAT IS WAITING FOR HIM AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VILLAGE.

?
SNORE...SNORE
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHERE IS YOUR YOUNG MASTER?
OUCH!
MR. OFFICER, SIR!
WE WERE WALKING...AS USUAL...WITH THE YOUNG MASTER... WHEN TWO...TWO TRAVELERS JOINED US. AFTER A LITTLE WHILE....
MMMM... YOU SMELL OF ALCOHOL!
THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT, THEY INVITED US... TO SHARE A BOTTLE...OF WINE...THEY INSISTED...BUT AS SOON AS WE DRANK IT, WE FELL ASLEEP.
I SEE. AND WHAT ABOUT YOUNG KUNG?
THE YOUNG MASTER DIDN'T DRINK.
WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER. HURRY, GO AND FIND YOUR MASTER BEFORE HE...I'LL RUN AND WARN HIS FATHER AND ALERT MY MEN.
AIDOAI!
THE OFFICER THOUGHT WE WERE LYING. WELL, I GUESS YOU CAN'T ASK MASTER FENG TO BELIEVE THIS STORY, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT'S ABOUT HIS ONLY SON.
BUDDHA OR SATAN, EITHER OF YOU! PLEASE HELP US FIND THE YOUNG KUNG! BUT WHERE? WHERE?
PRECISELY WHERE HE'LL MAKE THE MOST TROUBLE: IN THE VILLAGE!
VINK
3

Tee Hee Hee!
LAUGHTER....
AND I WILL FINISH THE OTHER ONE UP LATER. TEE HEE!
IF HE WOULD ONLY LIMIT HIMSELF TO RAPING AND PILLAGING LIKE HE DID THE OTHER DAY, ALL WOULD BE WELL... BUT THIS WEATHER MAKES ME FORESEE THE WORST POSSIBLE THINGS....
SHUT UP WITH YOUR PROPHECIES! LOOK DOWN THERE, IS THAT A FIRE?
WITH THIS WIND, THE FIRE WILL DEVOUR EVERYTHING IN NO TIME. WE'VE GOT A FEW MOMENTS TO TRY AND GET THEM OUT OF THERE!
NO...
HOW BEAUTIFUL IT IS!!! HA HA HA HA!
HELP! AUGH! THEIR THROATS HAVE BEEN SLIT! BE CAREFUL! GET AWAY FROM HERE!
FIRE!

IT'S TOO LATE. WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR THEM!
THOSE POOR PEOPLE!
HA! HA! HA! THEY SPENT THEIR LIFE GETTING MORE AND MORE IN DEBT WITH MY FAMILY, BUT THANKS TO YU KUNG, THERE IS AN END TO DEBTS AND DEBTORS!
HOWEVER, THEY STILL HAVE INTEREST TO PAY. THEIR BASTARD WILL PAY IT, WITH HIS LIFE!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? GO GET HIM! QUICK!!
YOU BUNCH OF GOOD-FOR-NOTHINGS! DID I PAY YOU SO THAT YOU COULD SLEEP? YOU WILL ANSWER FOR THIS FIRE.
THIS IS MURDER, YU FENG! AND YOUR SON AND HIS GUARDS ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR IT!
YOU YOU BE CAREFUL!
MISFORTUNE HAS HIT YOU, LITTLE BARBARIAN! MISFORTUNE! YU KUNG...
...YU KUNG IS LOOKING TO KILL YOU. HE SET FIRE TO YOUR PARENTS HOUSE! HEAVENS! YOUR PARENTS ARE DEAD, SAVE YOURSELF!!
DON'T GO THAT WAY, YOU IDIOT! CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT HE DID TO ME, HIS OWN DOCTOR??


THIS BUFFALO IS SO SLOW! GO FASTER! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
I SAW THEM JUST A FEW HOURS AGO! THEY BROUGHT ME SOME FOOD!
A NESTLING WITHOUT HIS NEST. IS THAT WHAT I AM ALREADY? SO SOON?
... AN ORPHAN...
MURDER! STOP HIM, STOP HIM!
WHY DON'T YOU GO AFTER HIM?
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF WE RAN AWAY? IT'S OUR FAULT THAT THE YOUNG MASTER COMMITTED THIS LAST CRIME, AND NOW LOOK AT HIM! WE ARE GOING TO BE PUNISHED IN A TERRIBLE WAY!
VILLAGERS! PLEASE KEEP CALM!
ARE YOU CRAZY!? YU KUNG IS JUST STUNNED, NOTHING MORE AND THE LITTLE BARBARIAN WILL BE THE SCAPEGOAT HURRY UP AND GO TELL MASTER FENG THE WHOLE STORY.
THIS REGRETABLE INCIDENT WILL BE JUDGED IN DUE TIME BY A STATE COURT. YOU MUST NOT FORGET THAT RIGHT NOW THE STATE HAS TO FACE MUCH GREATER DANGERS SUCH AS THE WAR WITH THE BARBARIANS.

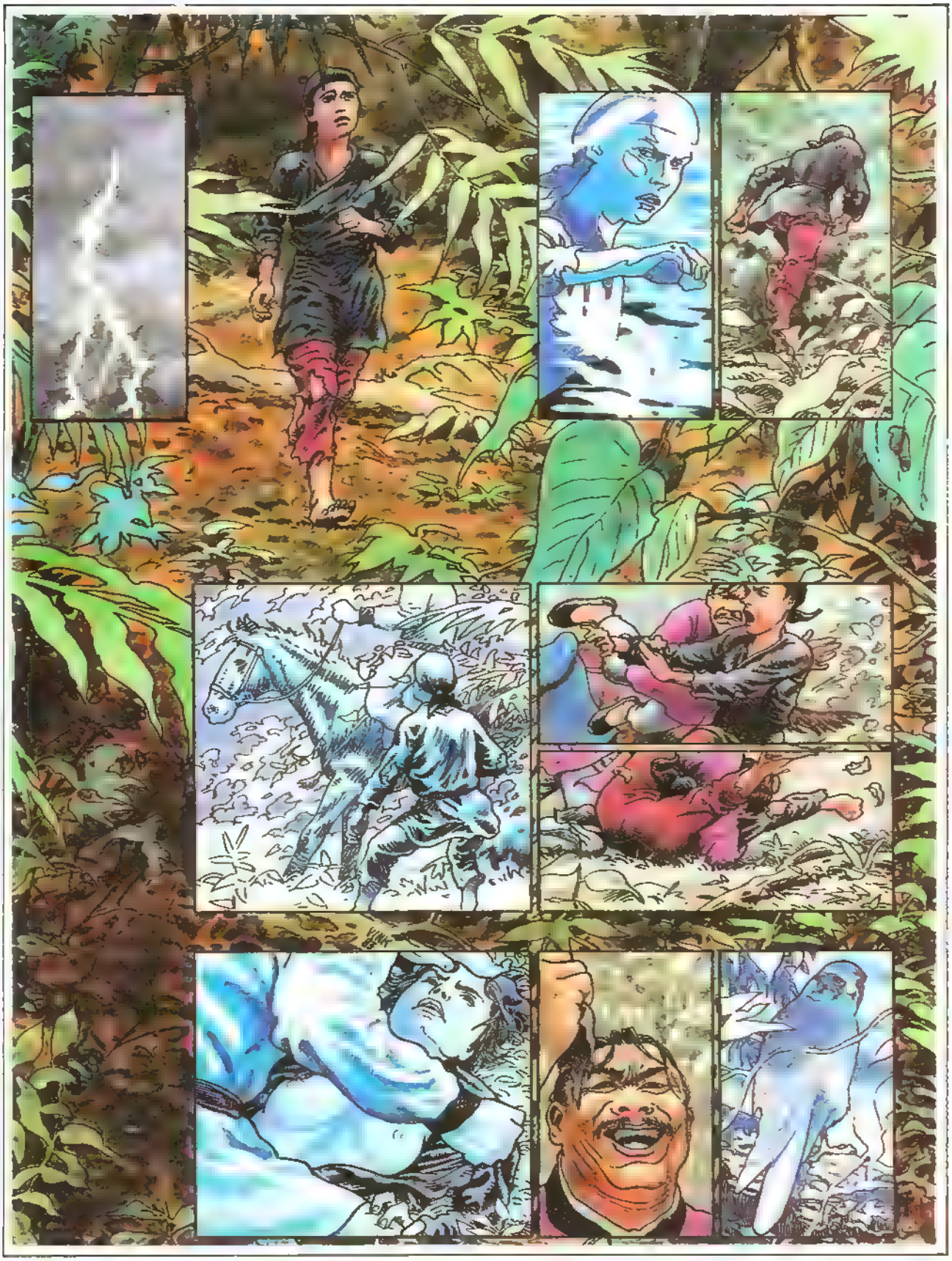
All troublemakers will be tried as conspirators against our country and will be sentenced to death
Now go back to your jobs! All except those who will take care of the bodies.
The Yu family will pay for all the funeral expenses, is that correct, master Feng?
Officer, why don't you ask that rich man if he will be as generous with the future victims of his son's fury?
He Pao!
Yes! Yes!
Calm down!
He Pao, listen to me! Don't stay here, come with me. Remember that your parents are much happier than we are, up there in the Heavens..
Who dared incite a buffalo against my son!! Find that dirty bastard of a barbarian!
You really did that? You know how to fight, my dear, but you must learn how to run away! Come quick! We'll cover you!
You will capture him and take him to the prefect!
I cannot get him, master Feng! Look at all these furious people in front of me! We are only three!
Let me go!
You bastards!
Arrrghhh!

TCHJiiii!
WELL?
YOUR BUFFALO KEEPER HAS DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR!
WELL, ANYWAY, THAT'S OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO MY INVESTIGATION
WHAT INVESTI-GATION?

SIX DAYS AGO, SOMEONE WAS RAPED.
THAT OLD PEASANT WOMAN
...THEN A DOCTOR WAS ASSAULTED AND TODAY, A FIRE FLARES UP KILLING TWO PEOPLE AND NEARLY CAUSING A RIOT. IF YOUR PRECIOUS SON KEEPS ON THIS WAY, EVEN THIS LAST TRANQUIL PART OF THE EMPIRE WILL HAVE ITS OWN PEASANT UPRISINGS.
DON'T WORRY. MY SON IS LOCKED UP IN HIS ROOM AND CAN'T GET OUT. THIS TIME HE'S GUARDED DAY AND NIGHT.
BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS THE MATTER WITH YOUNG KUNG? WHY HAS HE BECOME SO VIOLENT ALL OF A SUDDEN?
YES, WHY? HE WAS ALWAYS A LITTLE STRANGE, FROM THE TIME HE WAS FIRST BORN, BUT HE WAS ALWAYS VERY SWEET... WOULDN'T HURT A FLY. HEAVENS! HOW TIRED I AM!
MASTER FENG, THIS WEATHER IS ENOUGH TO IRRITATE THE SANEST OF CONSTITUTIONS. BUT HAVE YOU EVER CONSULTED AN EXORCIST?
EXORCIST!? I HAVE SEEN SO MANY QUACKS AND CHARLATANS--AND THERE ARE NEVER ANY RESULTS!

. HOWEVER, MY COUSIN, WHOSE DAUGHTER IS ALSO DERANGED, HAS SPOKEN VERY HIGHLY OF THREE HOLY WOMEN SPECIALISTS IN ALL SICKNESSES OF THE MIND, HE SAYS. . .
ARE THEY NUNS?
I SAW THEM YESTERDAY, BUT DISMISSED THEM IMMEDIATELY THEY WERE CONVINCED THAT KUNG WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A MYSTERIOUS DRUG.
SOUNDS INTERESTING! I'D LIKE TO TALK TO THEM. THEIR DIAGNOSIS AGREES WITH THAT OF YOUR SON'S GUARDS.
PEI AND YEN? DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THEIR LIES? WHY SHOULD STRANGERS GIVE THEM WINE THAT HAS BEEN DRUGGED? TO FREE MY SON? AND TO WHAT END?
MAYBE TO SPREAD UNREST THROUGHOUT AN EMPIRE ALREADY PLAGUED BY WARS. BOTH THE ENEMY AND THE SECRET SOCIETIES GAIN SOMETHING FROM THAT.
I HAVE TO QUESTION PEI AND YEN MORE CLOSELY.
I WILL CALL THEM!
MASTER!!
WHAT NOW?
THE YOUNG MASTER HAS ESCAPED ONCE AGAIN. PEI AND YEN ARE DEAD, IN FRONT OF HIS DOOR
MASTER, ARE YOU NOT WELL? WOU, GO CALL YOUR MISTRESS!
COME WITH ME! THOSE POOR MEN!
POISONED DARTS STRAIGHT TO THE HEART. THEY WERE KILLED BY SOMEONE WELL VERSED IN THE MARTIAL ARTS! HMMMM
..I KNOW THE YOUNG MASTER KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THAT. AND I KNOW HE WAS LOCKED UP IN HIS ROOM!

KUNG MUST HAVE BEEN FREED BY TWO OR MORE ACCOMPLICES. THEY MUST STILL BE AROUND.
CLOSE ALL THE GATES!!!
GO, BROTHER KUNG! THE BIRD WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY!
ALL WHO COULD HELP ME WITH MY INVESTIGATION HAVE DISAPPEARED. SOME IN THE HEAVENS, SOME IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. IF I TRY TO LOOK FOR THEM I WILL HAVE TO CONTEND WITH: THREE NUNS, TWO OR MORE BLOODTHIRSTY STRANGERS, A BUFFALO KEEPER AND A LUNATIC! WHAT AN APPEALING PROSPECT!
THE YOUNG MASTER MUST BE FAR AWAY BY NOW. I THINK HE'S AFTER THE LITTLE BARBARIAN. HE KEPT REPEATING THAT NAME. WITH EVIL GUIDING HIM, HE'LL BE SURE TO FIND HIS PREY.
WHY IS HIS PURSUIT SO RELENTLESS?
WELL, THE LITTLE BARBARIAN IS 13 YEARS OLD, AND THE YOUNG MASTER EVEN THOUGH HE'S CRAZY... HAS HEM MADE ADVANCES WITHOUT SUCCESS HEM. PLEASE DON'T TELL MASTER FANG WHAT I JUST SAID....
WELL, I HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN WHO THE LITTLE BARBARIAN REALLY IS. I THINK THAT KUNG WILL HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING THE OBJECT OF HIS DESIRE.
AT LEAST, I HOPE SO...

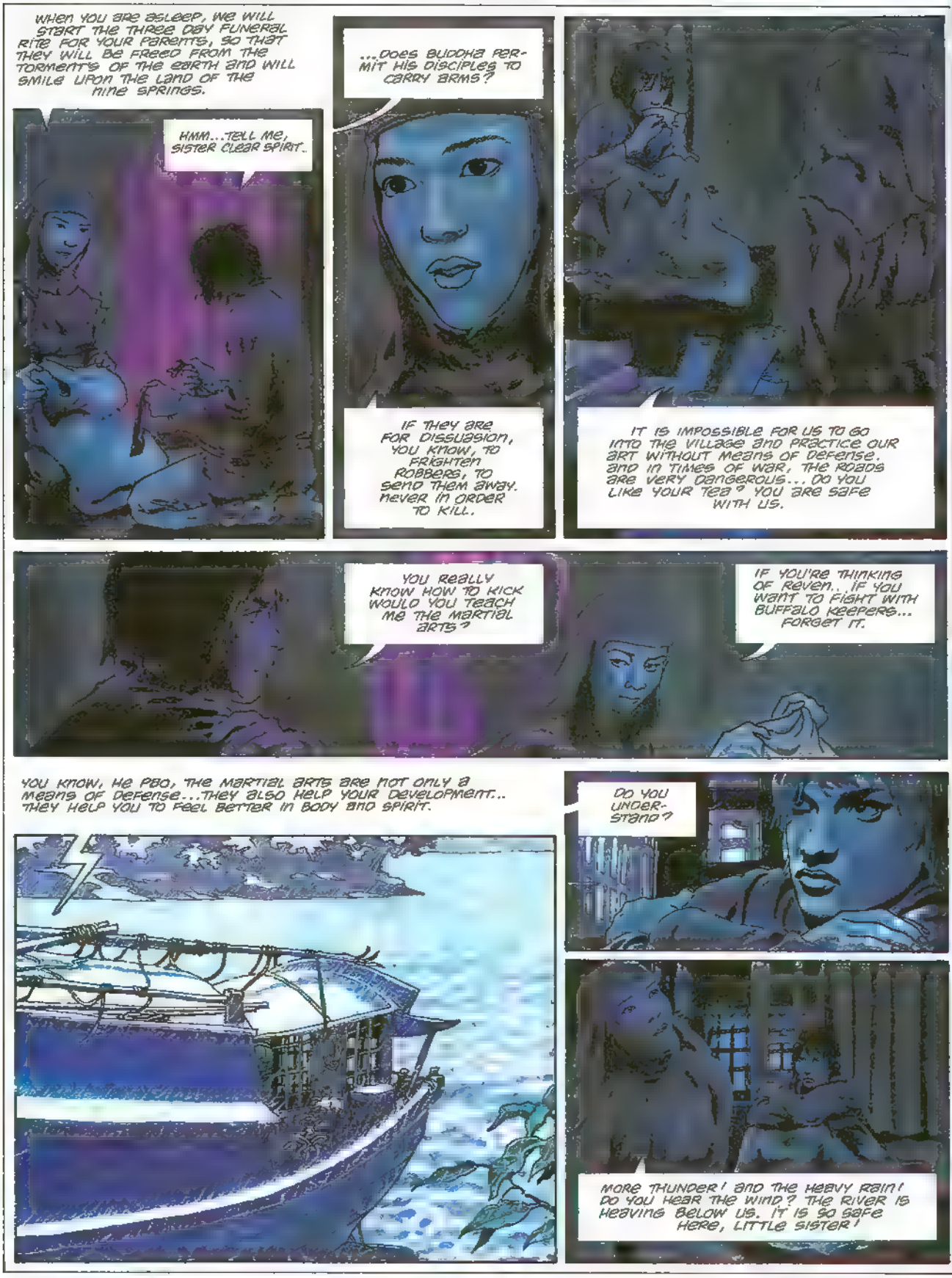


HHUMFRR!
KREURK!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? GO BWBY!
YARHH!
ARGH!
GREAT MOVE! WELL DONE, SISTER CLEAR SPIRIT!
TAKE CARE OF THE LITTLE GIRL
IT'S ALL OVER NOW YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!
GOOD, HAVE A GOOD CRY! COME WITH US NOW, THE STORM IS ABOUT TO BURST

YOU LOUSY BIRD! YOU'RE HIS ACCOMPLICE! THAT PIG!
IF I HAD A BOW AND ARROW, I'D TEACH YOU THE LAW OF BUDDHA OH, YOU'RE LETTING ME GO ..
BECAUSE YOUR FRIEND IS RUNNING AWAY!
WAIT FOR ME!
HERE WE ARE
YOU FOOLHARDY WOMEN! WHAT HAPPENED?

That lunatic has caused so many hardships! All this wouldn't have happened to He Pao if the old man had let us take a look at his son. It was obvious that he was taking some drugs.
Sister Clear Spirit and I didn't recognize Kung, it was so dark in the woods. Thank God we lingered to pick a few more herbs.
It was destiny our paths and He Pao's didn't cross just by chance. We have to take care of her. What do you think, He Pao?
Venerable nuns, I would be eternally grateful! But, do you think the religious life would suit me?
Do we ever really know how things will work out? Right now, we need you.
...To help with the housework, and picking and preserving the herbs, to prepare a few simple remedies. We will teach you how to become a healer if you wish. In short, there is a lot to do on our boat.
I'll do my best
Of course, you won't be able to fight with other buffalo keepers! But we travel a lot, and that is a lot of fun, you'll see.
Tell me, who gave you your nickname: Little Barbarian? It's a boy's name.
My parents adopted me when I was very little. I don't quite remember what happened. They had always dreamed of having a boy, and since they couldn't have any children, they brought me up as one
My parents were proud of me

ALL THE VILLAGE TREATED ME LIKE A LITTLE BOY, AND LIKE A BARBARIAN, BECAUSE I DON'T BELONG TO THE HAN RACE, LIKE YOU.
WE DO NOT CALL ALL THOSE WHO ARE NOT HAN, BARBARIANS! I SUPPOSE THAT NOBODY IN THIS GODFORSAKEN PLACE HAS EVER SEEN A TRUE BARBARIAN, LIKE THE JIN FROM THE NORTH. YOU'RE CERTAINLY NOT ONE OF THEM.
IN SOME BIG CITIES WE HAVE SEEN MEN WITH WHITE SKIN SUCH AS YOURS. THEY COME FROM THE WEST, VERY FAR AWAY
OH!
I'M NOT A BARBARIAN THEN! THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE LIKE ME, AND WILL I SEE THEM ONE DAY?
OF COURSE, BECAUSE YOU WILL TRAVEL WITH US FROM NOW ON. TOMORROW WE WILL LEAVE VERY EARLY, IS THAT RIGHT, ELDER SISTER?
YES. SHE MUST REST NOW. SHE'S VERY TIRED, I CAN SEE THAT. I'LL MAKE SOME TEA FOR HER.
寺禅
IF THE STORM HADN'T STARTED
...WE COULD HAVE LEFT TONIGHT. I'D LIKE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.


When you are asleep, we will start the three day funeral rite for your parents, so that they will be freed from the torments of the earth and will smile upon the land of the nine springs.
Hmm...Tell me, sister Clear Spirit.
...does Buddha permit his disciples to carry arms?
If they are for dissuasion, you know, to frighten robbers, to send them away. Never in order to kill.
It is impossible for us to go into the village and practice our art without means of defense. And in times of war, the roads are very dangerous... Do you like your tea? You are safe with us.
You really know how to kick would you teach me the martial arts?
If you're thinking of Raven.. If you want to fight with buffalo keepers... forget it.
You know, He Pao, the martial arts are not only a means of defense...they also help your development.. they help you to feel better in body and spirit.
Do you understand?
More thunder! and the heavy rain! Do you hear the wind? The river is heaving below us. It is so safe here, little sister!

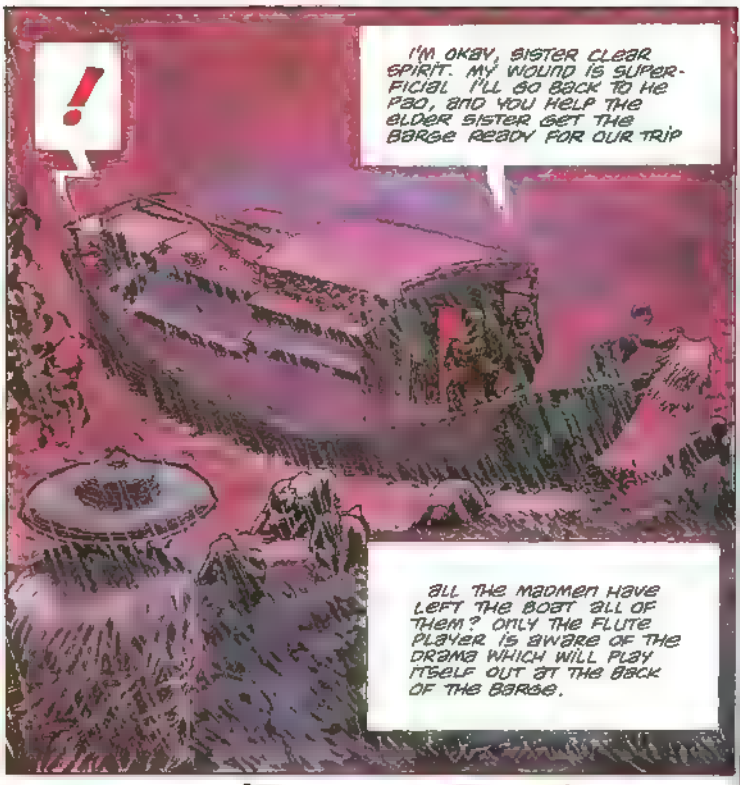
THAT YOUNG KUNG IS A VERY INTERESTING CASE. A DRUG WHICH TURNS HIM INTO A KILLER. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS AND FIND AN ANTIDOTE IF MORE PEOPLE GET HOLD OF THE DRUG, THEY WILL CREATE AS MUCH DESOLATION AS THE HORDES OF BARBARIANS!
THAT'S RIGHT, SISTER PURE SOUL. YOU WILL GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE AND TRY TO FIND OUT MORE DETAILS ABOUT THIS SITUATION. GO TO KUNG'S HOUSE AND TRY TO FIND SOME TRACES OF THE DRUG. WE WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU NEAR THE SMALL PAGODA, DOWNSTREAM A WAYS.
ELDER SISTER, I THINK WE MUST KEEP OUR INVESTIGATION SECRET, AND NOT TELL HO PAO. AND NEVER MENTION THE NAME OF YU. THE LITTLE ONE HAS MANY VIOLENT THOUGHTS.
SILENCE WON'T MAKE HER FORGET REVENGE! I THINK WE MUST SHOW HER, BY OUR INVESTIGATION, THAT KUNG IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A DRUG, AND THUS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS ACTIONS.
BUT HO PAO WOULD THEN LOOK FOR OTHER CULPRITS -- LIKE THE PEOPLE WHO GAVE HIM THE DRUG.
WILL SHE FIND THEM? WILL WE FIND THEM? OUR TASK FOR NOW WILL BE TO DISCOVER THE NATURE OF THIS DRUG. THE AUTHORITIES WILL THINK OF THE REST.
IT WON'T BE EASY TO SOLVE THIS ENIGMA! WILL THE COURT BELIEVE A LUNATIC'S ACCUSATIONS?
I WONDER WHAT THAT NOISE IS?
HO PAO. SHE'S TOSSING IN HER SLEEP.
BEN YIN

He Pao? Can't you hear the fire crackling? Save us!!!
It's the rain which is making that noise! Mother, Father, you are safe!
It's the fire! The fire! Ha ha ha ha
Go and join them in Hell, you dirty slut!
RG KARH!
?

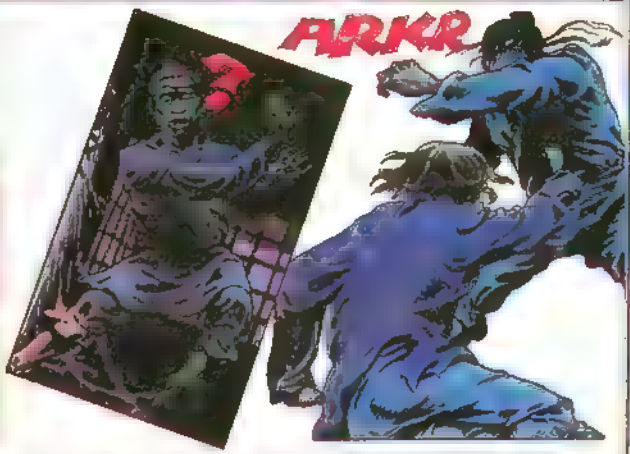
BUT. I'M NOT DREAMING. THERE'S FIGHTING GOING ON!
...RIGHT ABOVE ME!
YARH!
RGKARH!
YU
KONG
YOU FOLLOWED ME HERE? YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR THIS!
NO, HE PAO, NOOOO... DON'T....

KILL HIM! NO, I'M GOING TO CUT OFF HIS LEGS! THIS MAD-MAN MUST STOP FOLLOWING ME....
OUCH!
HE PAO!!
THAT'S A BLOW YOU WON'T RECOVER FROM SO EASILY! HA HA HA
MONSTER!!! MONSTER!!!
SISTER CLEAR SPIRIT I FEEL STRANGE I HEAR A FLUTE PLAYING
DON'T WORRY! YOU'RE NOT DELIRIOUS SOMEBODY IS PLAYING THE FLUTE IT MUST BE A SIGNAL TELLING THE ROBBERS TO RETREAT HERE, SWALLOW THESE. THEY WILL HELP
ELDER SISTER, HE PAO IS WOUNDED!
I KNOW! IT WOULD BE WISE FOR US TO LEAVE THIS MUSIC SPURS THEM ON THEY ARE ALL CRAZY AND THEY'VE BEEN DRUGGED, JUST LIKE KUNG

RGKARH!
HOW HORRIBLE! KUNG IS CUTTING OFF HIS EAR!
THEY ARE ALL CUTTING THEMSELVES
LET THE FIRE OF THE EARTH BURN UP THE WORLD!
WE HAVE TRIED TO AVOID BLOODSHED, BUT THEY NEED TO SMELL BLOOD IN ORDER TO WORK UP A FRENZY!
OLD WITCH! DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH THE ANCHOR!
THIS IS NOT THE MOMENT TO TRY AND REASON WITH YOU, YOU CRAZIES!
ARJK!
BOM!
BOM!
BOM!
888H!
SISTER PURE SOUL IS IN TROUBLE I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, HE PAO.


!
I'M OKAY, SISTER CLEAR SPIRIT. MY WOUND IS SUPERFICIAL I'LL GO BACK TO HE PAO, AND YOU HELP THE ELDER SISTER GET THE BARGE READY FOR OUR TRIP
ALL THE MADMEN HAVE LEFT THE BOAT ALL OF THEM? ONLY THE FLUTE PLAYER IS AWARE OF THE DRAMA WHICH WILL PLAY ITSELF OUT AT THE BACK OF THE BARGE.

IRON HEAD WILL MAKE SURE THAT YOU'LL PAY FOR OUR CRIMES!
HE PAO!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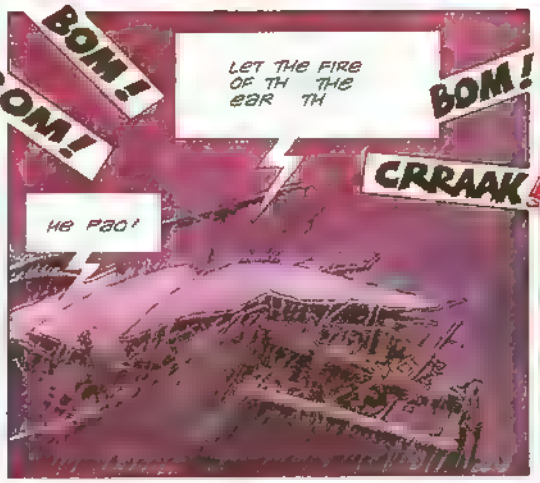
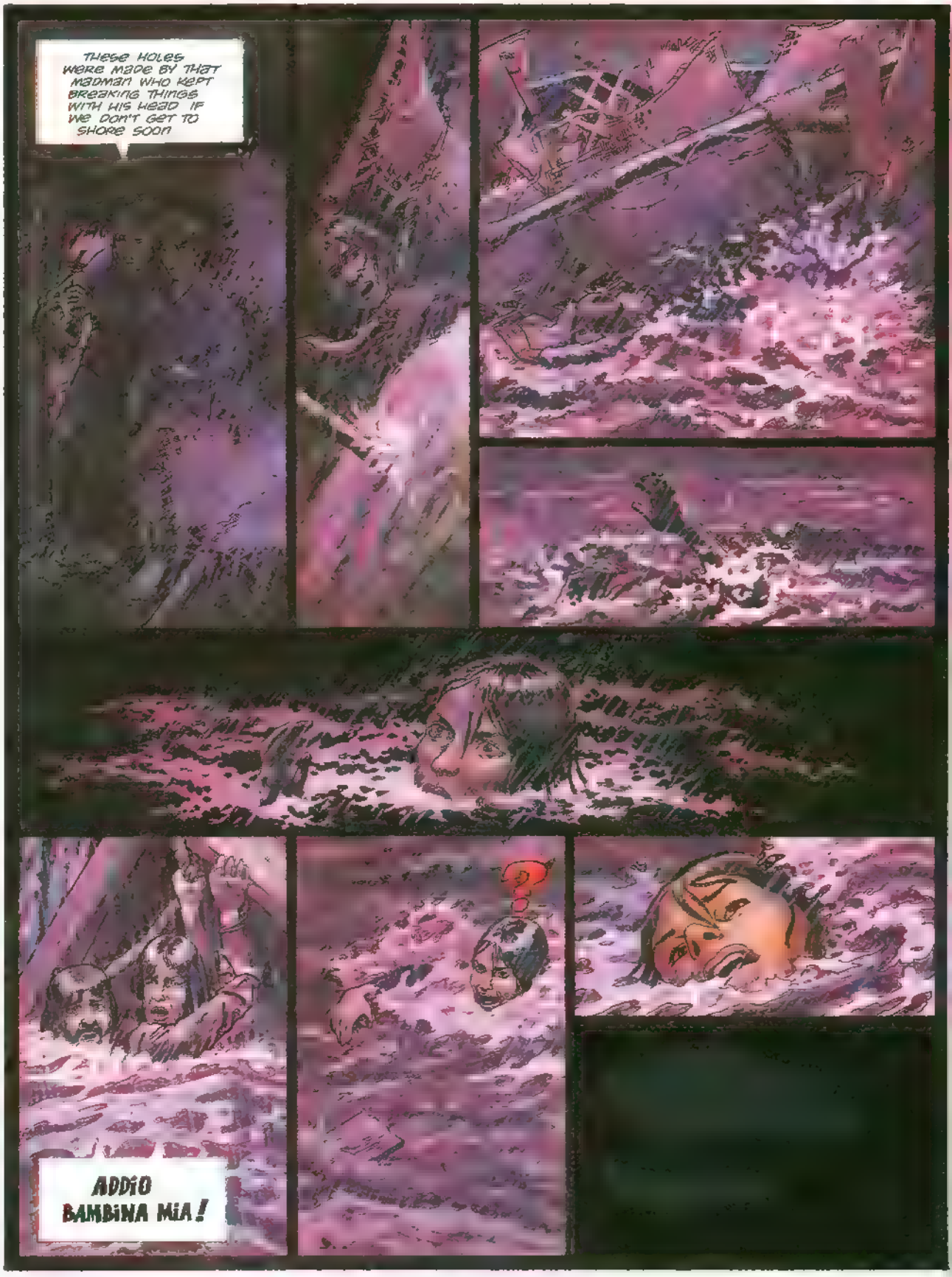

BOM!
BOM!
LET THE FIRE OF TH THE EAR TH
BOM!
CRRAAK
HE PAO!

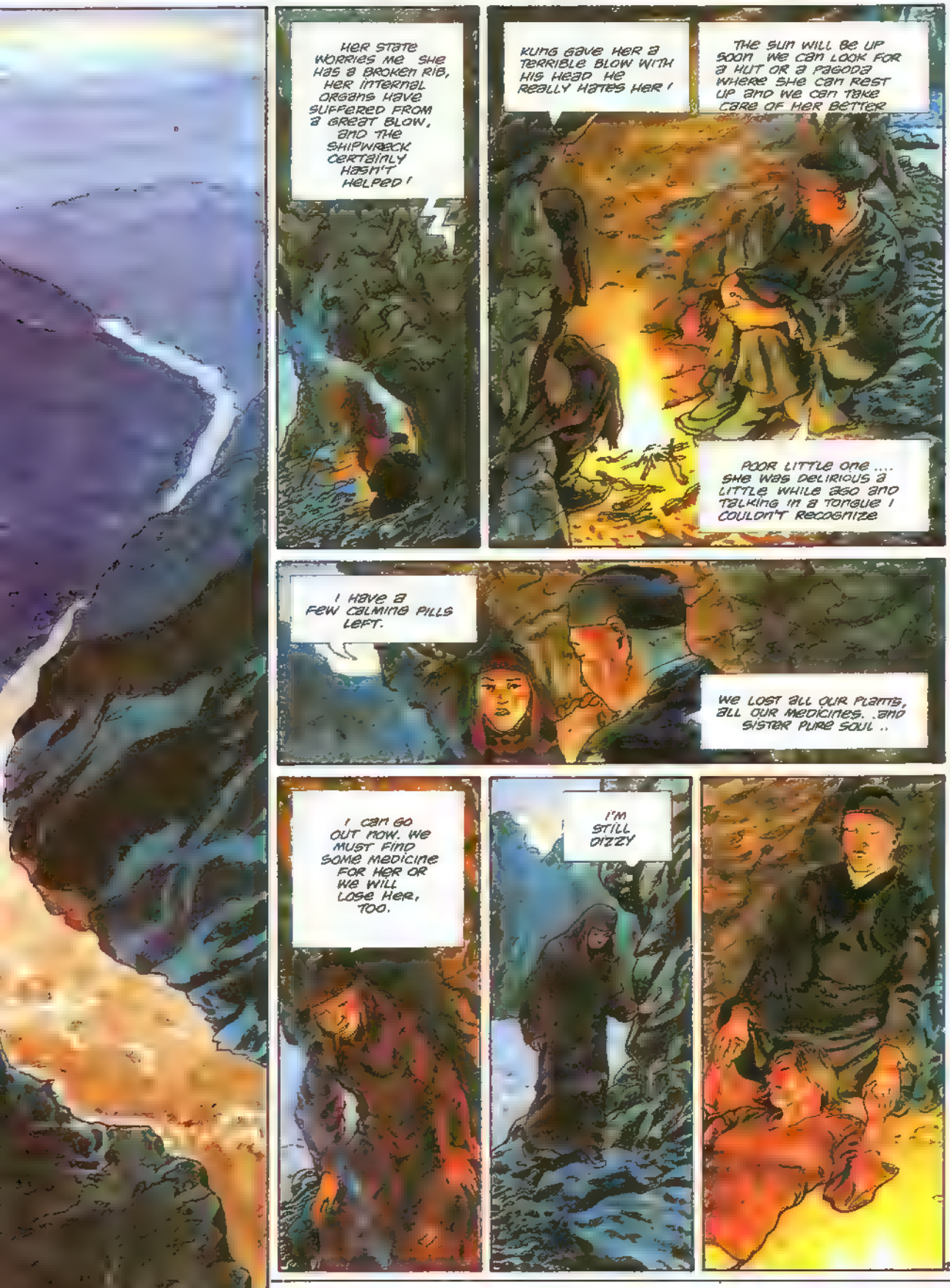
..DE STROY...

THE TILLER! HE'S DESTROYED IT!

BROTHER IRON HEAD, WE WILL AVENGE YOU!

THE BOAT IS DRIFTING! QUICK, GET THE POLES!
WE WILL TRY TO REACH THE SHORE AT THE NEXT BEND IN THE RIVER
YOU'RE SHIVERING!
I DIDN'T WANT TO...REALLY, I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL HIM! IF ONLY IT HAD BEEN YU KUNG, I WOULDN'T BE SHIVERING RIGHT NOW—
DOES THIS HURT YOU? HMM I BELIEVE YOU BROKE A RIB. WITH ALL THE PLANTS WE HAVE WITH US YOU WILL BE WELL TAKEN CARE OF AS SOON AS WE GET TO SHORE
BUT YOU'RE ALSO WOUNDED, SISTER PURE SOUL!
THE CURRENT IS VERY STRONG. IT WOULD BE THE SAME EVEN IF WE HAD A TILLER
I'M THE ONE WHO'S GIVING THEM ALL THIS TROUBLE! IT SEEMS LIKE THE WATER IS RISING...OH BUDDHA! IF WE GET OUT OF THIS ALIVE, I WILL BECOME A NUN!
I THINK WE'RE SINKING! THERE MUST BE A HOLE SOMEWHERE...
I'LL GO AND SEE!


THESE HOLES WERE MADE BY THAT MADMAN WHO KEPT BREAKING THINGS WITH HIS HEAD IF WE DON'T GET TO SHORE SOON
ADDIO BAMBINA MIA!


HER STATE WORRIES ME SHE HAS A BROKEN RIB, HER INTERNAL ORGANS HAVE SUFFERED FROM A GREAT BLOW, AND THE SHIPWRECK CERTAINLY HASN'T HELPED!
KUNG GAVE HER A TERRIBLE BLOW WITH HIS HEAD HE REALLY HATES HER!
THE SUN WILL BE UP SOON WE CAN LOOK FOR A HUT OR A PAGODA WHERE SHE CAN REST UP AND WE CAN TAKE CARE OF HER BETTER
POOR LITTLE ONE .... SHE WAS DELIRIOUS A LITTLE WHILE AGO AND TALKING IN A TONGUE I COULDN'T RECOGNIZE
I HAVE A FEW CALMING PILLS LEFT.
WE LOST ALL OUR PLANTS, ALL OUR MEDICINES. .AND SISTER PURE SOUL ..
I CAN GO OUT NOW. WE MUST FIND SOME MEDICINE FOR HER OR WE WILL LOSE HER, TOO.
I'M STILL DIZZY

FATHER? MOTHER? ELDER SISTER, WHERE ARE THEY?
HE PAO, CALM DOWN! WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
MY REAL PARENTS -- I RECOGNIZED WHEN I WAS IN THE RIVER THEY WERE HANGING ONTO THE BARGE AND THEIR FACES EXPRESSED INTENSE SUFFERING... AND I STILL FEEL THAT ..
NOTHING BUT STONES.
...AND PLANTS WITH NO MEDICINAL QUALITIES
?
THEY WERE SHOUTING SOMETHING SOMETHING I CAN'T REMEMBER.
ADDIO BAMB OR BAM!? YOU WERE SAYING IT WHILE YOU WERE DELIRIOUS AND OF COURSE, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS?
AN ABANDONED VILLAGE! THERE IS DESOLATION EVERYWHERE
ARE YOU FEELING ILL? MAY I BE OF HELP?
VINK 93

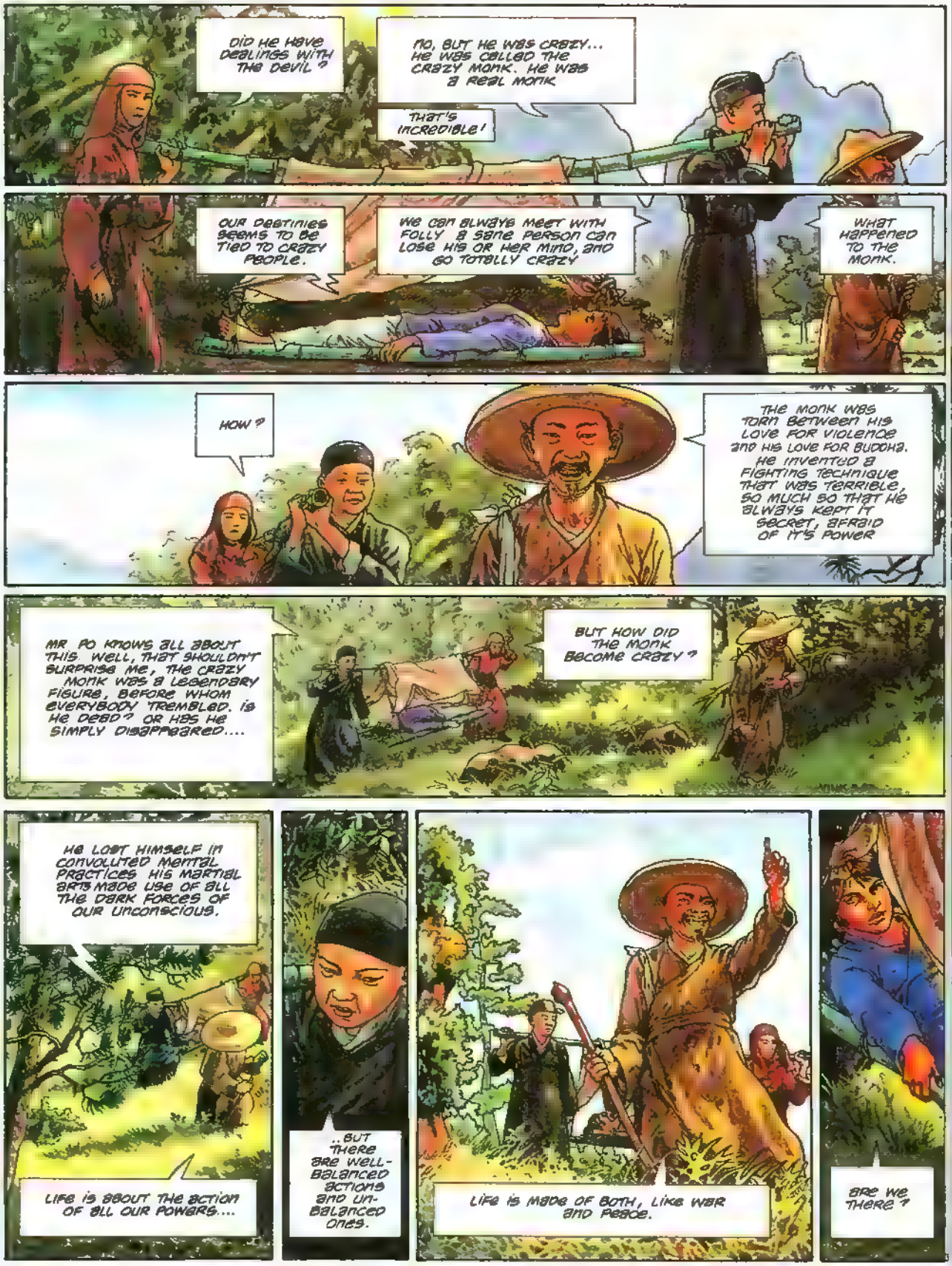
THE RIVER HAS ITS OWN MEMORY. SHE BROUGHT BACK A VISION OF YOUR EARLY CHILDHOOD. YOU MUST HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN A SHIPWRECK WHEN YOU WERE WITH THEM--THEY WERE PROBABLY TRADERS.
MAYBE YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE SAVED. YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN SAVED BY THE PEOPLE WHO THEN CALLED YOU HE PAO, THE JEWEL FROM THE RIVER
THEY NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH I WAS ADOPTED I NEVER FIGURED OUT WHY
BUT, WHERE ARE THE TWO SISTERS?
CLEAR SPIRIT HAS GONE TO LOOK FOR SOME HERBS FOR YOU BUT PURE SOUL DIDN'T. WE COULDN'T FIND HER....
POOR SISTER PURE SOUL! SHE WAS THE ONE WHO THREW ME OUT OF THE BARGE IT WAS A USELESS SACRIFICE .. I FEEL ALL BROKEN . I WON'T LAST LONG ANYWAY ..
DESTINY DIDN'T SAVE YOU FROM TWO SHIPWRECKS JUST TO LET YOU DIE! YOU WILL HAVE AN EXCEPTIONAL LIFE, I CAN SEE IT IN THE LINES OF YOUR HAND. A BLOW FROM KUNG CERTAINLY WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.
ELDER SISTER IS RIGHT! THANKS TO THIS MAN, HE PAO, YOU WILL BE SAVED!
VENERABLE NUN, MY NAME IS WANG PO, ALSO KNOWN AS THE LAUGHING CRIPPLE, THE ETERNAL WANDERER. THE LAST VILLAGE I VISITED WAS DESTROYED BY THE BANDITS, SO I'M ON THE ROAD AGAIN.
ARE YOU A DOCTOR?
NO, VENERABLE NUN, BUT I KNOW WHAT YOU NEED. THE YOUNG GIRL'S SITUATION IS VERY BAD
OH, YES...MISTER PO SUFFERS FROM FACIAL PARALYSIS, AND LOOKS AS IF HE IS ALWAYS SMILING. WOULD YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN TO MY ELDER SISTER HOW YOU PROPOSE TO HELP HE PAO?
IN TIMES OF TROUBLE, DO NOT TRUST OBLIGING STRANGERS.
23

ABOUT A DAY FROM HERE IS THE MOUNTAIN OF THE COLORED CLOUDS, WHICH HIDES A VERITABLE TREASURE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS THAT ARE BOUND TO SAVE YOUR PATIENT. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THERE IS NO ACCOMPLISHED DOCTOR IN THIS AREA.
THE MOUNTAIN OF THE COLORED CLOUDS...
PLEASE LET AN OLD WANDERER BE OF SOME HELP. I WILL TAKE YOU THERE I LIMP, BUT I WON'T DELAY YOU
PERFECT! WE WILL MAKE A STRETCHER
TONIGHT, HE PAO, YOU WILL FEEL BETTER. BUT OUR CURES WON'T BE ENOUGH. YOU MUST LEARN TO HEAL YOURSELF.
WHAT MUST I DO?
LESSON NUMBER 1: TOMORROW DURING OUR MARCH, CLOSE YOUR EYES, LISTEN TO YOUR BREATH AND FEEL THE MOVEMENT OF YOUR LUNGS. THAT WILL RELAX YOU
SISTER CLEAR SPIRIT?
IS SOMETHING WRONG? ARE YOU ILL?

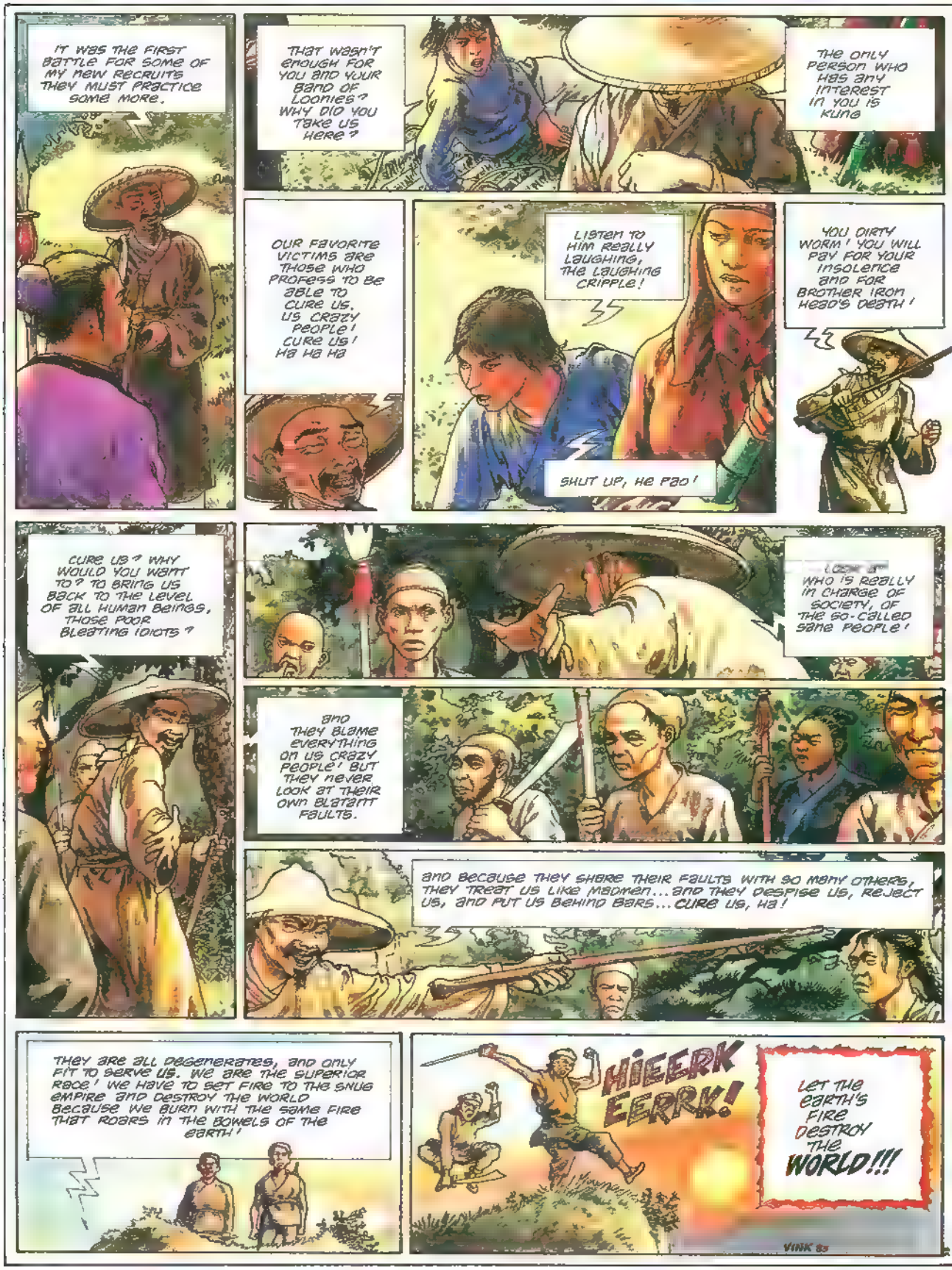
I FEEL FINE. AH, I CAN SEE MYSELF, AS A LITTLE GIRL, IN MY MOTHER'S ARMS. WE'RE IN A SORT OF CARRIAGE. MY FATHER, WHO HAS A BEARD, IS RIDING NEXT TO US
ELDER SISTER, HE PAO IS STILL DELIRIOUS!
NO, LEAVE HER ALONE.
SOMETHING'S GOING ON UP THERE.
HEY! DON'T GO IN THAT DIRECTION!
WE JUST LEFT OUR VILLAGE. THE BARBARIANS ARE COMING!
DON'T WORRY! WE'LL SKIRT THE VILLAGE.
THEY'RE CRAZY!
THE BARBARIANS! THE BARBARIANS!
IT WAS A LONG CARAVAN. AROUND US ONLY STONES... AS FAR AS THE EYE COULD SEE. NOT A TREE... IT'S SO HOT!
THIS WAY!
OAWH! OAWH!
I'M THIRSTY! SOMETHING TO DRINK, PLEASE!
MISTER PO, GIVE HE PAO FOUR DROPS OF WATER, NO MORE, AND MAKE SHADE FOR HER. WE'LL GO TALK TO THE BARBARIANS.
YOU SHOULD PRAY FOR ALL OF US, IF WE STILL HAVE THE TIME...

YAH...
?
HI EEE
EERK!
PARTISANS!
DEATH TO THE BAR-BARIANS!!
DARTS! HE KILLED THEM WITH TWO DARTS!
HOORAY! VICTORY! THE BARBARIANS HAVE BEEN EXTERMINATED IN NO TIME...
CAREFUL!
A HEAD!
HE PEE!
SHE'S SLEEP-ING

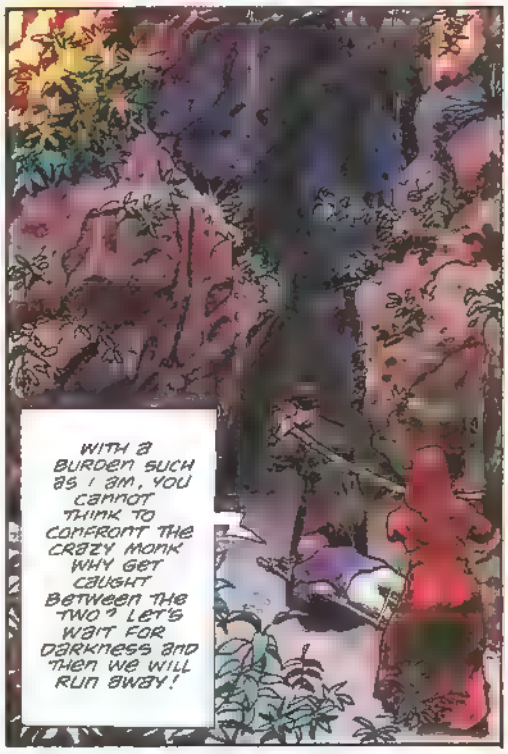
DEATH TO THE BARBARIANS !!!
THEY CAN'T BELIEVE THIS HAPPENED-- THEY'RE GOING WILD! LET'S LEAVE THERE WILL SURELY BE MORE BARBARIANS TO FOLLOW!
DEATH TO THE BARBARIANS!!!
THOSE THREE MEN DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR, JUST LIKE DEVILS.
THEIR HORSES, TOO TOO BAD!
DEVILS! THEIR CRIES SOUNDED INHUMAN... AND THEIR STYLE OF COMBAT WAS DIABOLICAL .. ELDER SISTER, TO WHAT MARTIAL ART SCHOOL DO YOU THINK THOSE MEN BELONGED?
WELL, TO NONE THAT I KNOW OF...
WE'VE ALREADY GONE HALF WAY WE'LL BE THERE WELL BEFORE NIGHT-FALL
CLEAR SPIRIT, THE TECHNIQUE THOSE THREE MEN EMPLOYED REMINDS ME OF A DECEASED MASTER.. BUT HE HAD NO DISCIPLES THAT I KNOW OF.


DID HE HAVE DEALINGS WITH THE DEVIL ?
NO, BUT HE WAS CRAZY... HE WAS CALLED THE CRAZY MONK. HE WAS A REAL MONK
THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
OUR DESTINIES SEEMS TO BE TIED TO CRAZY PEOPLE.
WE CAN ALWAYS MEET WITH FOLLY A SANE PERSON CAN LOSE HIS OR HER MIND, AND GO TOTALLY CRAZY
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MONK.
HOW ?
THE MONK WAS TORN BETWEEN HIS LOVE FOR VIOLENCE AND HIS LOVE FOR BUDDHA. HE INVENTED A FIGHTING TECHNIQUE THAT WAS TERRIBLE, SO MUCH SO THAT HE ALWAYS KEPT IT SECRET, AFRAID OF IT'S POWER
MR PO KNOWS ALL ABOUT THIS. WELL, THAT SHOULDN'T SURPRISE ME, THE CRAZY MONK WAS A LEGENDARY FIGURE, BEFORE WHOM EVERYBODY TREMBLED. IS HE DEAD ? OR HAS HE SIMPLY DISAPPEARED....
BUT HOW DID THE MONK BECOME CRAZY ?
HE LOST HIMSELF IN CONVOLUTED MENTAL PRACTICES. HIS MARTIAL ARTS MADE USE OF ALL THE DARK FORCES OF OUR UNCONSCIOUS.
LIFE IS ABOUT THE ACTION OF ALL OUR POWERS....
..BUT THERE ARE WELL-BALANCED ACTIONS AND UN-BALANCED ONES.
LIFE IS MADE OF BOTH, LIKE WAR AND PEACE.
ARE WE THERE ?

BEHIND ALL THAT VEGETATION THERE IS THE OPENING OF A GROTTO WHICH WILL TAKE YOU TO A CANYON. THERE YOU WILL FIND ALL THE PRECIOUS HERBS YOU'LL NEED.
WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL, SIR. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE AS A REPAYMENT FOR YOUR KINDNESS? SOME MEDICINES FOR YOUR MEN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE VENERABLE MUN MADE A REGRETTABLE MISTAKE. WE DON'T NEED ANY MEDICINE.
I WAS SUSPICIOUS OF MR PO EVER SINCE THE BEGINNING. I DETECTED NO CHANGE IN HIS BREATHING WHEN WE WERE CONFRONTED BY THE BARBARIANS-- HE WASN'T AFRAID OF THEM
HE HAD ACCOMPLICES WHO WERE READY TO PROTECT HIM. THEY WERE THE MEN WHO KILLED THE BARBARIANS.
AND WHILE HIS MEN WERE FIGHTING HIS BREATHING BETRAYED HIS MENTAL PARTICIPATION IN THE COMBAT. HE MUST BE AN EXPERT.
CLEAR SPIRIT, THE LAUGHING CRIPPLE LED THE ATTACK ON OUR BARGE. . HE PLAYED THE FLUTE UNDER THE POURING RAIN....
YU KUNG THERE.


IT WAS THE FIRST BATTLE FOR SOME OF MY NEW RECRUITS THEY MUST PRACTICE SOME MORE.
THAT WASN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU AND YOUR BAND OF LOONIES? WHY DID YOU TAKE US HERE?
THE ONLY PERSON WHO HAS ANY INTEREST IN YOU IS KUNG
OUR FAVORITE VICTIMS ARE THOSE WHO PROFESS TO BE ABLE TO CURE US, US CRAZY PEOPLE! CURE US! HA HA HA
LISTEN TO HIM REALLY LAUGHING, THE LAUGHING CRIPPLE!
SHUT UP, HE PAO!
YOU DIRTY WORM! YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR INSOLENCE AND FOR BROTHER IRON HEAD'S DEATH!
CURE US? WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO? TO BRING US BACK TO THE LEVEL OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS, THOSE POOR BLEATING IDIOTS?
WHO IS REALLY IN CHARGE OF SOCIETY, OF THE SO-CALLED SANE PEOPLE!
AND THEY BLAME EVERYTHING ON US CRAZY PEOPLE! BUT THEY NEVER LOOK AT THEIR OWN BLATANT FAULTS.
AND BECAUSE THEY SHARE THEIR FAULTS WITH SO MANY OTHERS, THEY TREAT US LIKE MADMEN... AND THEY DESPISE US, REJECT US, AND PUT US BEHIND BARS... CURE US, HA!
THEY ARE ALL DEGENERATES, AND ONLY FIT TO SERVE US. WE ARE THE SUPERIOR RACE! WE HAVE TO SET FIRE TO THE SNUG EMPIRE AND DESTROY THE WORLD BECAUSE WE BURN WITH THE SAME FIRE THAT ROARS IN THE BOWELS OF THE EARTH!
HIEERK EERRK!
LET THE EARTH'S FIRE DESTROY THE WORLD!!!
VINK 83

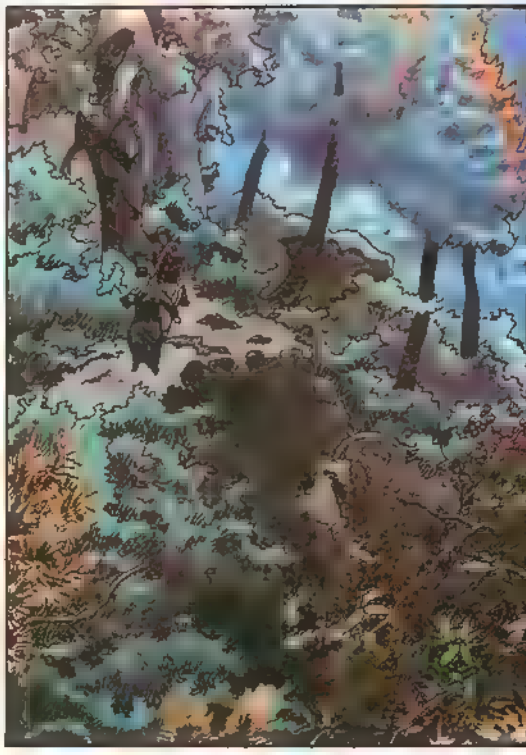
We've developed a martial art that will enable us to conquer the world. Alas, you will not be there to witness the event!
Is that idiot the one you called the crazy monk?
He's only crazy the monk must have been his teacher.
He was. He had only one student
I see the master had felt some remorse. His technique was too dangerous to be taught in its entirety. So he taught you only the rudiments.
I will follow his teachings
Then go down in the canyon
Yes! Those rudiments were like the seeds which beget the trees and then the forests. He had cruelly crippled me and made me forget everything-- 30 years of struggle to remember everything again.
This is his sanctuary, is that right?
What? The crazy monk is still?
And this old cripple wants to send us ahead to be massacred in his place!
What are you waiting for, my dear healers? Go and cure him! And don't forget to gather plants for your orphan!
You dirty cripple, Yu Kung, you band of madmen! I curse you! one day one day
I will kill everyone of you!
I don't think you will be alive to see the next sunrise! Ha, ha, ha, ha!

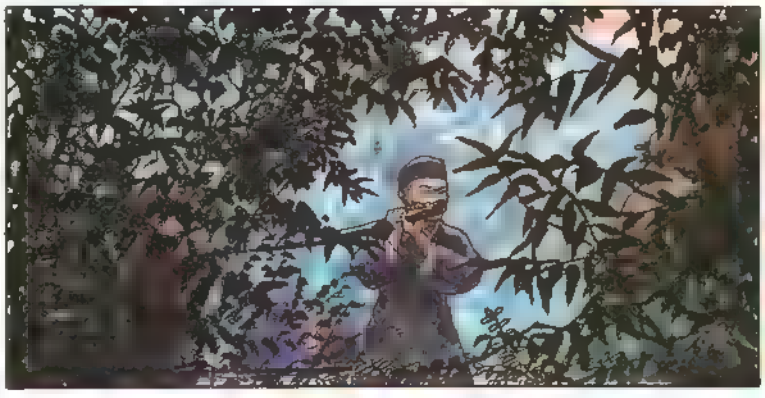

WITH A BURDEN SUCH AS I AM, YOU CANNOT THINK TO CONFRONT THE CRAZY MONK WHY GET CAUGHT BETWEEN THE TWO? LET'S WAIT FOR DARKNESS AND THEN WE WILL RUN AWAY!

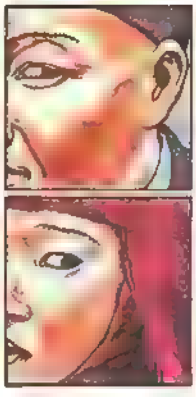
CALM DOWN, HE PAO! YOU CAN TRUST US!

VFHOOO

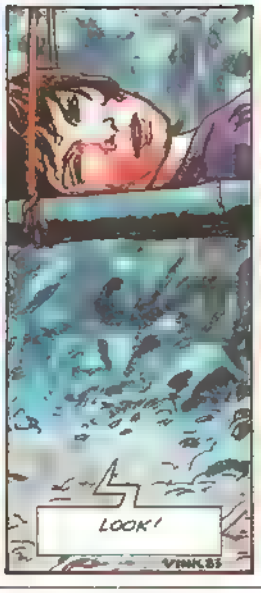
THAT COLD WIND SEEMS TO BODE NO GOOD. BRRR ... COURAGE! LET'S GO! DESTINATION: HELL!







ALL THOSE BIRDS! SEEMS LIKE THEY'VE NOT SEEN A HUMAN BEING FOR SOME TIME!


LOOK!
VINK.83

A PAGODA! HALF-DESTROYED!

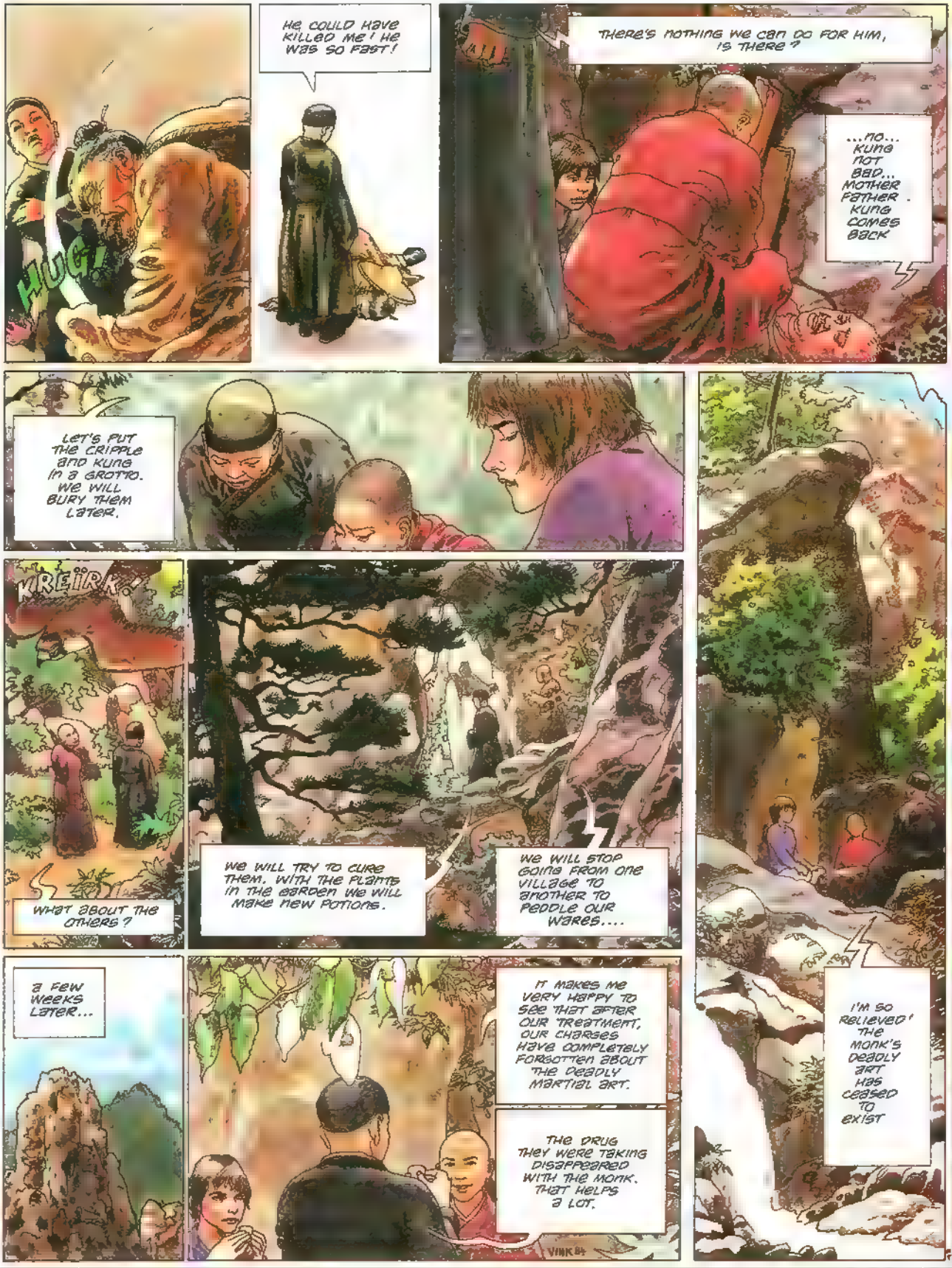
NOBODY'S LIVED HERE FOR YEARS!
ELDER SISTER! HE PAO IS BURNING WITH FEVER!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MANY DIFFERENT PLANTS THE CRAZY MONK GATHERED HERE! DID HE SUCCEED IN CURING HIMSELF? WHO KNOWS, HE MIGHT BE LIVING AS A HERMIT IN ONE OF THE GROTTOES.
NOBODY!
3 NIGHT WITHOUT SLEEP... THE SHIPWRECK... AND THEN TODAY.. MY NERVES ARE RAW! I'M SEEING THINGS.
HEL...
A PAGODA AND A HALF DESTROYED STATUE.. THAT'S HIM.

YOU MUST BE CRAZY! WHY SHOULD YOU HIDE YOUR PRETTY SKULL UNDER A VEIL? HI, HI, HI, HI!
CLEAR SPIRIT IS IN GREAT DANGER, ELDER SISTER!
EH? WHAT?
SEE YOU LATER!
DID YOU SEE THAT, ELDER SISTER? A REAL DEMON! SHE COULD HAVE KILLED ME, JUST BY LIFTING HER FINGER!
THIS STRANGE PLACE MAKES ME FEEL VERY ODD. YOU SEE, THE CRIPPLE SENT US HERE TO FIND OUT IF THE MONK WAS STILL ALIVE, AND TO FIGHT HIM IF THAT WERE THE CASE....
I HAD ALSO FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT BAND OF LUNATICS UP THERE.
THEY WON'T BE AFRAID TO COME DOWN TO THE CANYON, NOW THAT THEY KNOW THE MONK ISN'T HERE. THEY WILL ATTACK US TOMORROW
FIRST THINGS FIRST: THE MEDICINE FOR HE PAO.
YUCK!
LET THE EARTH'S FIRE DESTROY THE WORLD!!!
VINK X-83

THEY'RE GETTING READY... THOSE PEOPLE REALLY SCARE ME, ELDER SISTER. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
I FOUND THE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM IN THE GARDEN, JUST A FEW MOMENTS AGO. WHAT WE NEED NOW IS A FEW HOURS OF REST
THE MOON IS HIGH IN THE SKY AND THE AIR IS FULL OF THE SCENT OF HERBS. THERE IS NO SIGN OF THE TUMULT OF THE MORROW.
PURE SOUL, MY DEAREST SISTER, MAY YOU ARRIVE SAFELY IN THE LAND OF BUDDHA.
AFTER TOMORROW WE WILL REMAIN HERE. WE HAVE A ROOF OVER OUR HEADS. OR NEARLY... A GARDEN ...
YOU'RE RIGHT! WHAT MORE COULD WE WANT?
WHAT? IS IT TIME TO TAKE THE BUFFALOES TO PASTURE ALREADY?
NO MORE NIGHTMARES, HE PAO! YOU DON'T WORK FOR THE YUS ANYMORE!

ANOTHER BREW! GOSH, WHAT A SMELL! NO, NO, I FEEL QUITE WELL! I WON'T DRINK IT
IT PREVENTS VOMITING WITHOUT IT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RESIST WHEN THE LUNATICS ATTACK US
IT'S WHAT?
杀啊!
THEY'VE JUST TAKEN THEIR OWN DRUGS. CAN YOU HEAR THEM? CLEAR SPIRIT, COME GIVE ME A HAND!
YOU'RE RIGHT, LISTEN TO THAT!
TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO DO!
BLOW ON THE FIRE, THEY'RE COMING!
THE STORM BURSTS OVER THE CANYON WITH INHUMAN SHRIEKS, THE MADMEN JUMP DOWN INTO THE CANYON.
DEATH TO THE VERMIN! WE MUST REVENGE OUR BROTHER, IRON HEAD!
RARRGHH... AUGH AUGH!
AUGH! AUGH! AUGH!
AUGH! AUGH!

WHAT A NAUSEATING SMELL!
ARGH! YOU WITCHES! IF YOU THINK YOU CAN POISON US... AGGHH...
BUT... THE YOUNG TOMBOY IS RIGHT UNDERN
ACCHH! ARGHH!
DEATH TO THE VERMIN!!
ARHH!
?
AUGHH AUGH!
FATHER! MOTHER! HELP ME!
HE PAO, GET A BLANKET! QUICK!
YOU G GOT ME ARGHH!
THIRTY YEARS OF BATTLE CAN BE DESTROYED BY A LITTLE POISONED SMOKE
VINK 84


HUG!
HE COULD HAVE KILLED ME! HE WAS SO FAST!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO FOR HIM, IS THERE?
...NO... KUNG NOT BAD... MOTHER FATHER KUNG COMES BACK
LET'S PUT THE CRIPPLE AND KUNG IN A GROTTO. WE WILL BURY THEM LATER.
KREÏRK!
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?
WE WILL TRY TO CURE THEM. WITH THE PLANTS IN THE GARDEN WE WILL MAKE NEW POTIONS.
WE WILL STOP GOING FROM ONE VILLAGE TO ANOTHER TO PEDDLE OUR WARES....
I'M SO RELIEVED! THE MONK'S DEADLY ART HAS CEASED TO EXIST
A FEW WEEKS LATER...
IT MAKES ME VERY HAPPY TO SEE THAT AFTER OUR TREATMENT, OUR CHARGES HAVE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE DEADLY MARTIAL ART.
THE DRUG THEY WERE TAKING DISAPPEARED WITH THE MONK. THAT HELPS A LOT.
VINK 84

AND IF THE CRAZ.. AND IF THE MONK WERE STILL LIVING, SOMEPLACE ?
DO YOU KNOW, HE PBO, WHY THE MONK DESTROYED PART OF THE PAGODA AND HALF OF THE BUDDHA'S STATUE ?
BECAUSE HE'S CRAZY, ELDER SISTER !
HMM.
BY THAT GESTURE THE MONK IMPLIED THAT HE HAD SUCCEEDED IN FREEING HIMSELF, PARTIALLY AT LEAST, FROM THE SHACKLES OF HIS CULT. HE WAS ON THE ROAD TO ENLIGHTENMENT
A MAN LIKE THAT, HE PBO, DOES NOT DESTROY THINGS
I COULD SWEAR THAT SHE KNEW THE CRAZY MONK. THEY MUST HAVE SHARED A SECRET ...MAYBE A ROMANCE... WHICH WOULD EXPLAIN THE ELDER SISTER'S INTEREST IN FINDING REMEDIES FOR IT. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
CLEAR SPIRIT, WILL YOU TEACH ME THIS ALSO ?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
OH, SURE HE PBO! I WILL TEACH YOU THE GREAT ART OF RECEIVING WELL PLACED KICKS!
THAT THE TIME HAS COME, MY LITTLE ONE, FOR YOU TO START YOUR STUDIES -- PHILOSOPHY, CALLIGRAPHY... I WILL START TEACHING YOU HOW TO READ TODAY.
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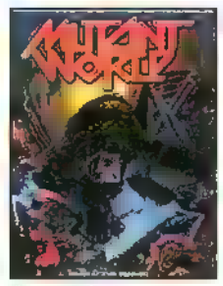

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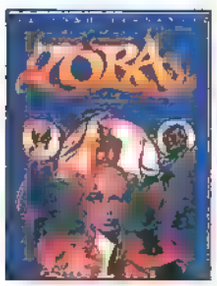

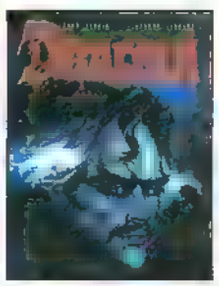

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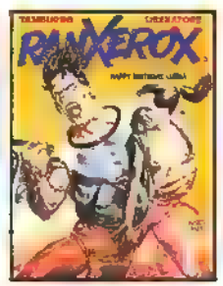

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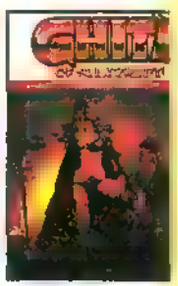

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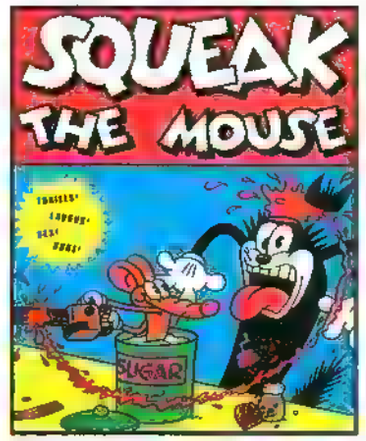

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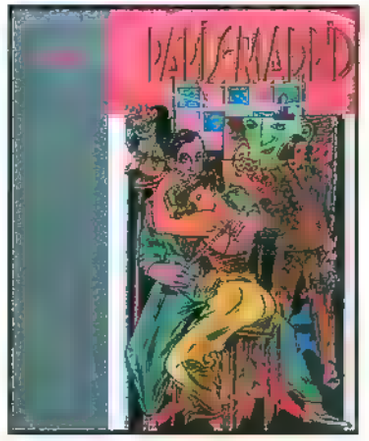

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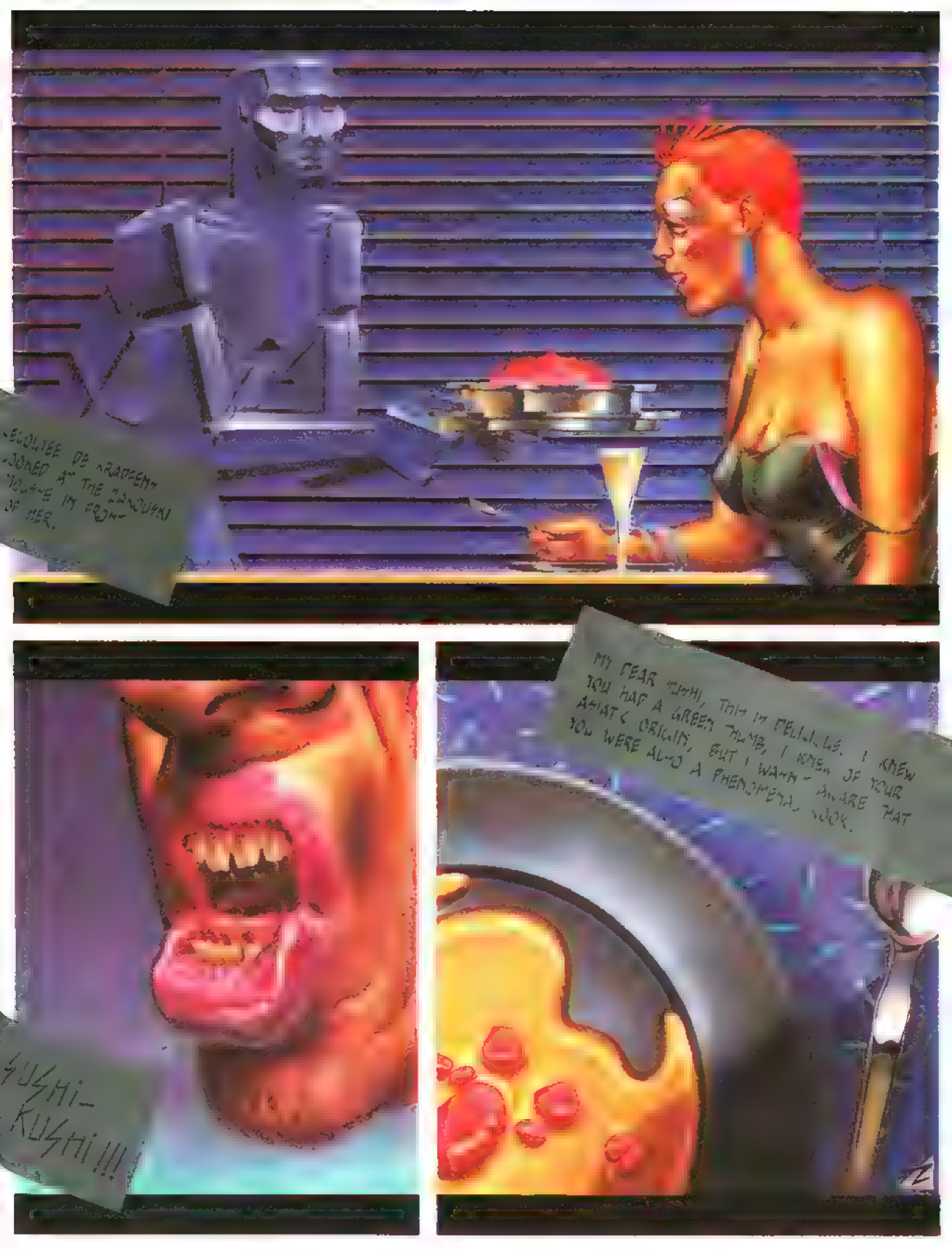
SOUTEE DE RAPPELER
JOKED AT THE SAMOURAI
YOUNG IN FRONT
OF HER.
KUSHI-
KUSHI!!!
MY DEAR KUSHI, THIS IS RELIGUS. I KNEW
YOU HAD A GREEN THUMB, I KNEW OF YOUR
ASIATIC ORIGIN, BUT I WASN'T AWARE THAT
YOU WERE ALSO A PHENOMENAL COOK.

THE END
Beb
Deum

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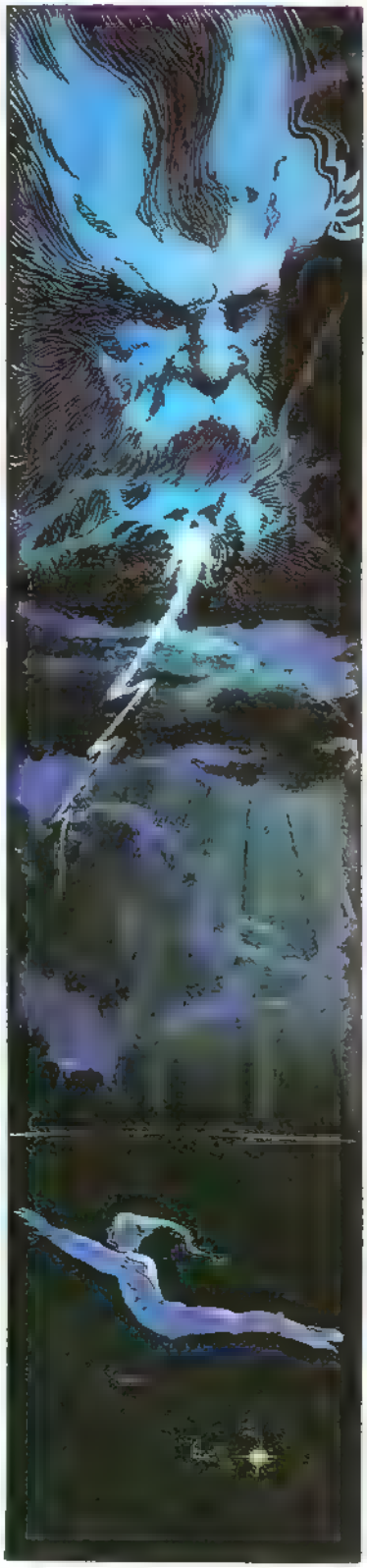
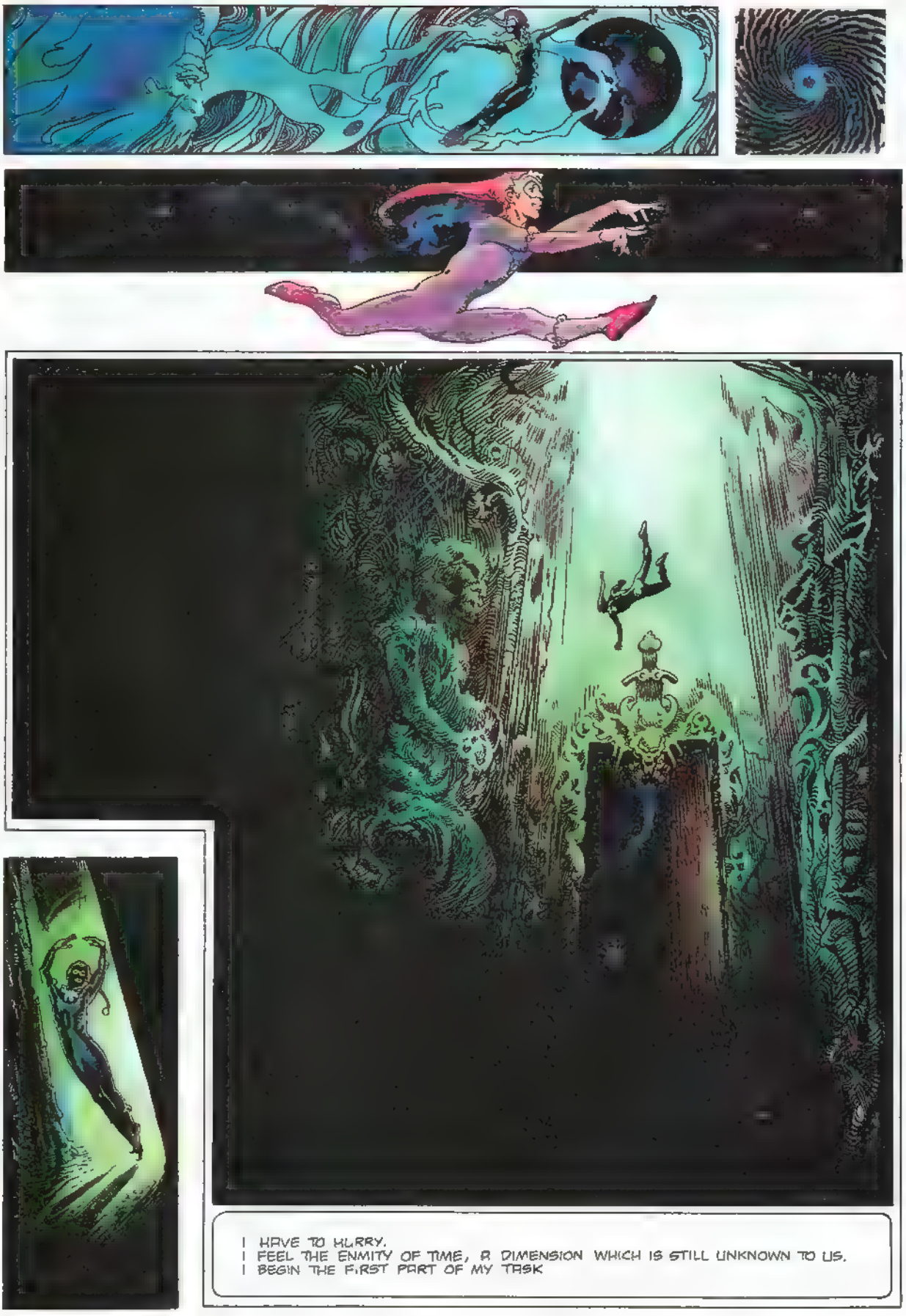
DREAM



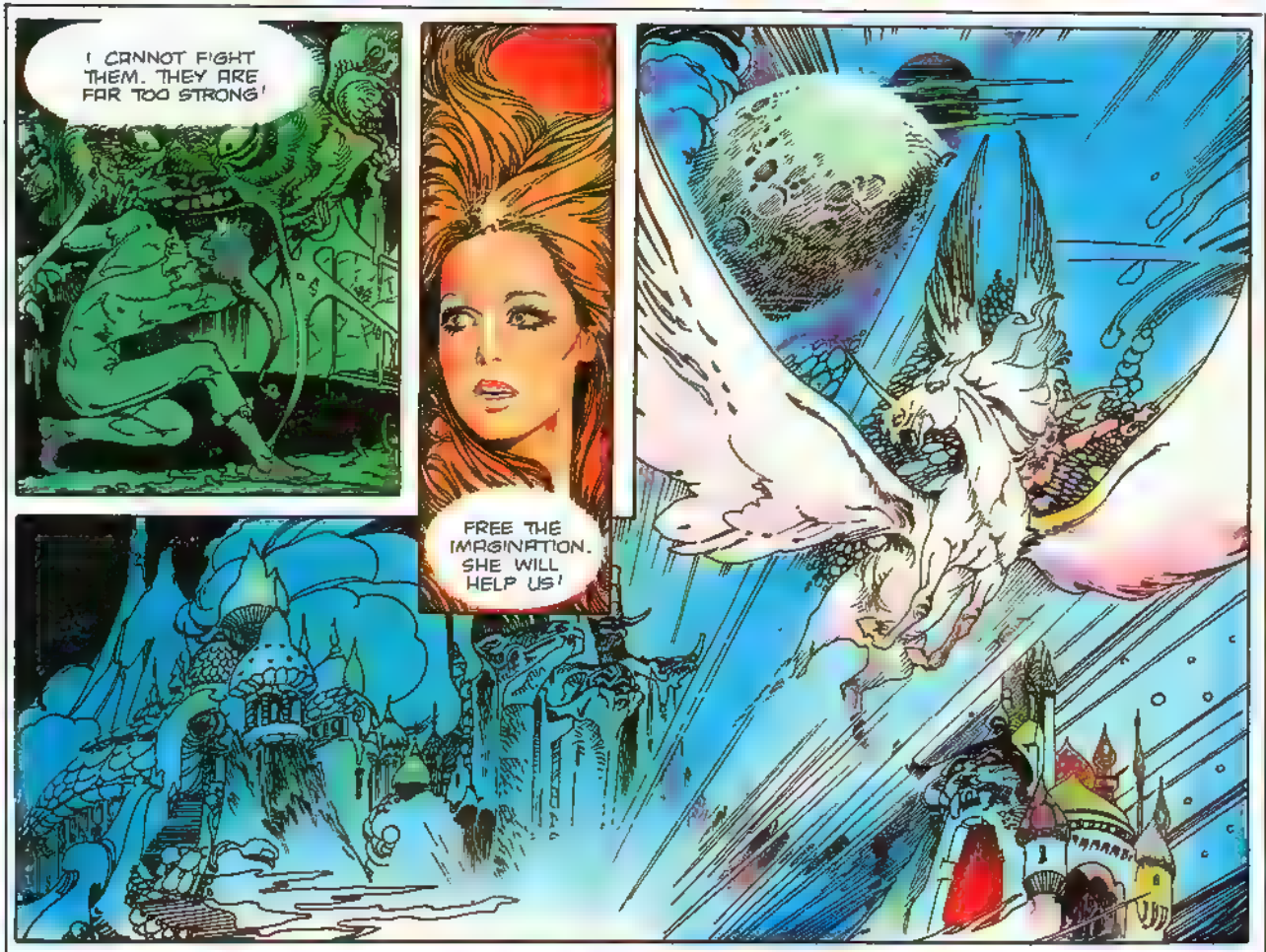
YOU CAN SOLVE OUR PROBLEM WE HAVE THE UTMOST CONFIDENCE IN YOU.

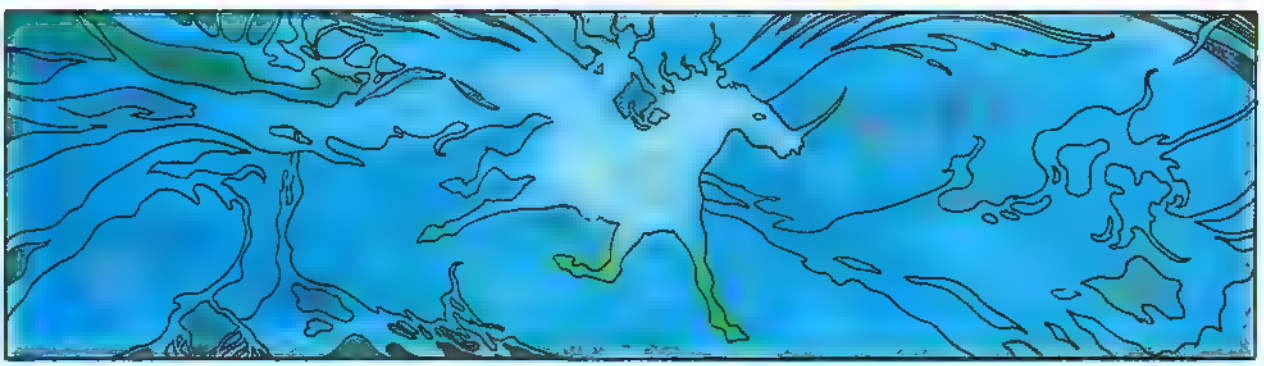
THEY HAVE STOLEN OUR ILLUSION.
THEY HAVE CHAINED IT UP SOMEWHERE. ONLY YOU AND YOUR DREAMS CAN GIVE IT BACK TO US.
PLEASE TRY. IT WAS WONDERFUL TO LIVE WITH IT THEN. NOW, WE ONLY HAVE OUR MEMORIES AND OUR ANGUISH!

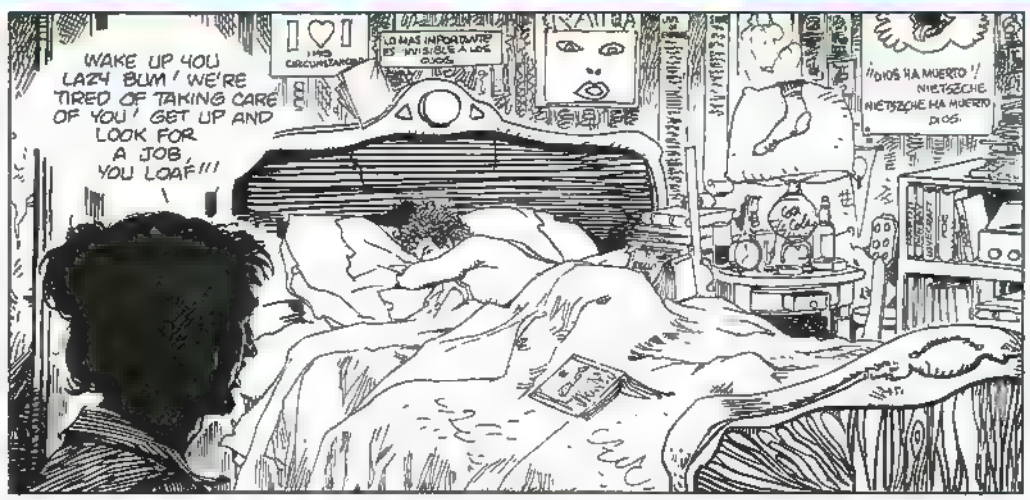

I HAVE TO HURRY.
I FEEL THE ENMITY OF TIME, A DIMENSION WHICH IS STILL UNKNOWN TO US.
I BEGIN THE FIRST PART OF MY TASK

DISENCHANTMENT
ENVY
SLOTH
EGOISM

I FEEL THE EYES OF ILLUSION ON ME. I ALSO FEEL AS IF I HAVE GOTTEN HERE TOO LATE, AND SCREWED UP MY JOB






WAKE UP YOU LAZY BUM! WE'RE TIRED OF TAKING CARE OF YOU! GET UP AND LOOK FOR A JOB, YOU LOAF!!!
¡¡DIOS HA MUERTO!! NIETZSCHE HA MUERTO DIOS.

THEY SAY THAT TO SLEEP IS TO DIE A LITTLE FOR A DREAMER, WAKING UP CAN BE JUST AS BAD AS DYING!

END

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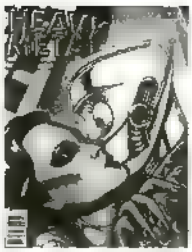

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- ☐ **NOVEMBER 1977** / Harlan Ellison, and Moebius
- ☐ **DECEMBER 1977** / Druillet's "Vuzz," and Howard Chaykin's "Fortune's Fool"
- ☐ **JANUARY 1978** / Roger Zelazny, and Gray Morrow
- ☐ **FEBRUARY 1978** / Forest's "Barbarella," and Moebius
- ☐ **MARCH 1978** / Gray Morrow's "Orion," and Corben's "Den"
- ☐ **APRIL 1978** / First anniversary issue
- ☐ **MAY 1978** / Philippe Druillet, and Alex Nino
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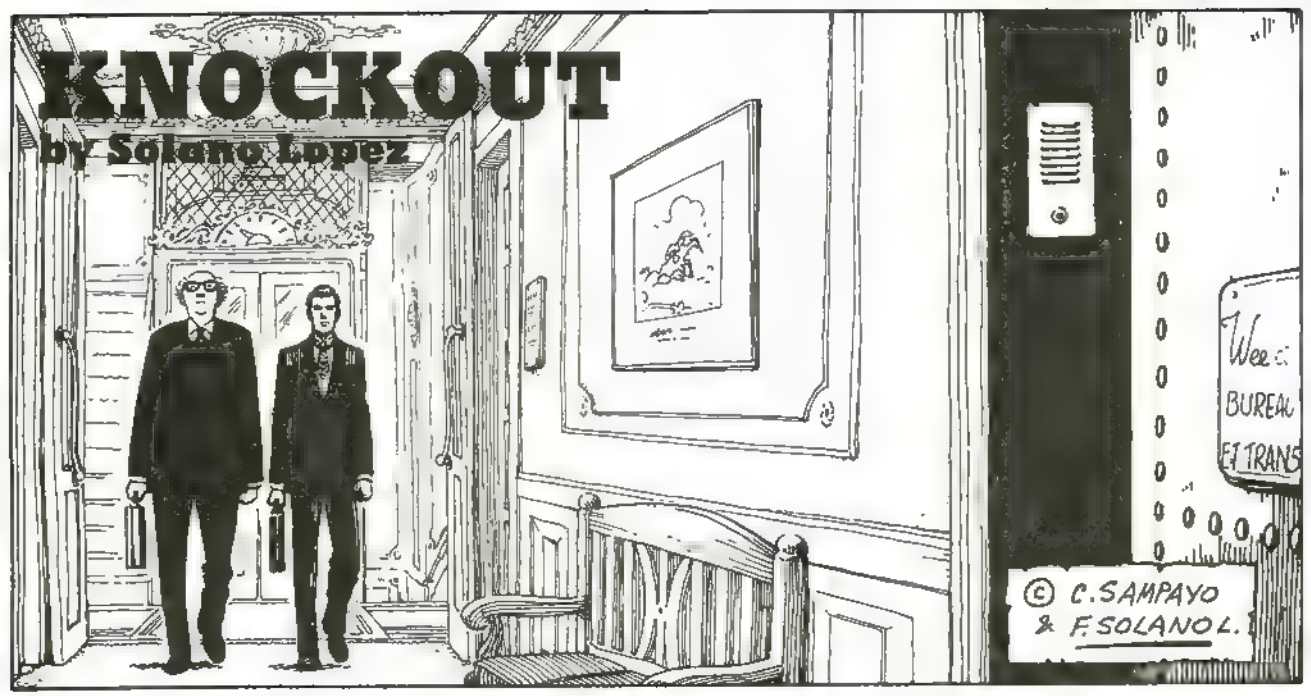
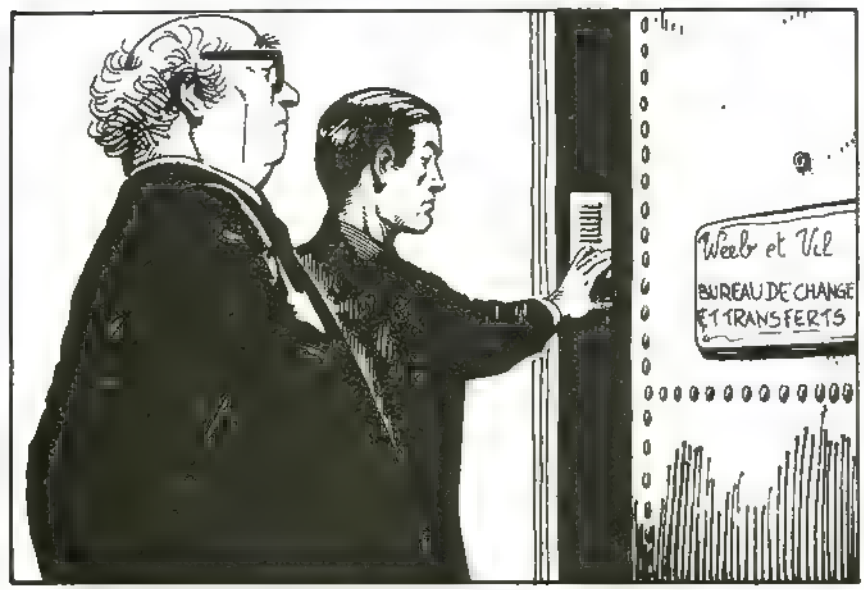
KNOCKOUT

by Solano Lopez



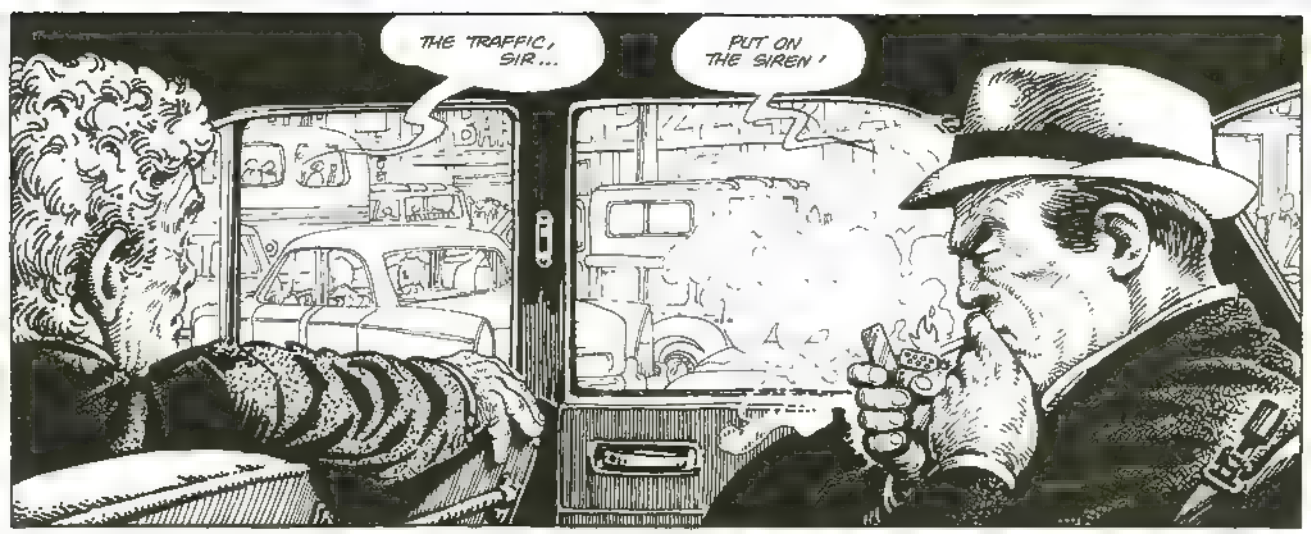


THE MOVE WILL BE VERY EASY-- YOU CAN TRUST ON BOTH OUR SPEED AND ABILITY.
NATURALLY.
BUT... W-WHAT ARE
SIT DOWN, ON THE FLOOR-- THERE, RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.
WE HAVE KIDNAPPED YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN. WE HAVE ALL THE TIME WE NEED. IN FACT .
... WE CAN WAIT AS LONG AS IT TAKES FOR YOU TO GET $500,000 TOGETHER!
TRRiiiiNNNN.
ARMERIA
Wool Yalls
CAMBIO

TRRiiiiiiNNNN..!!
LOOK OVER THERE! WHAT'S GOING ON?
CONFISERIE
CHOCOLATS FINS
MY EMPLOYEES... THEY HAVE ORDERS TO... WHERE'S MY FAMILY!
...YOUR FAMILY WILL HELP US GET OUT OF HERE.

HALF AN HOUR LATER .
COME ON, GET OUT OF THERE, WE'VE GOT YOU SURROUNDED!
MOVE ALONG, PLEASE, MOVE ALONG!
BAR
DOES HE THINK WE'RE AMATEURS?
YOU WILL TAKE MR COLM'S MESSAGE TO THE POLICE!
I'M AN EMPLOYEE... PLEASE DON'T SHOOT!
... HE WILL TALK ONLY TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE OTHERWISE WE MIGHT AS WELL SAY GOODBYE TO WEBB AND HIS FAMILY.
...THEY SAY THAT IT'S THE GREAT ROCKO COLM ..
WHAT? ISN'T HE DEAD?
LET ME SPEAK TO CHIEF OF POLICE, EVARISTO IT'S ABOUT ROCKO COLM.

...WITH YOU, CHIEF, OTHERWISE THEY WILL KILL HIS FAMILY PLUS ALL OF THE EMPLOYEES THEY ARE HOLDING HOSTAGE.
OKAY, I'LL DO IT.
THAT'S EVARISTO
ROCKO, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
THEY SAY HE ALWAYS CARRIES TWO GUNS.
GENTLE-MEN, COLM AND EVARISTO, DON'T FORGET THAT THIS IS A SPORT.
WE'RE ALL WAITING FOR ROCKO TO DISPLAY HIS POWERFUL RIGHT...
PHENOMENAL BLOW! COLM JABS OUT WITH HIS RIGHT AND HITS EVARISTO IN THE JAW
FOUR... FIVE...
THE UPPERCUT HAS KO'D HIM EVARISTO IS AT MAT... SEVEN... EIGHT...

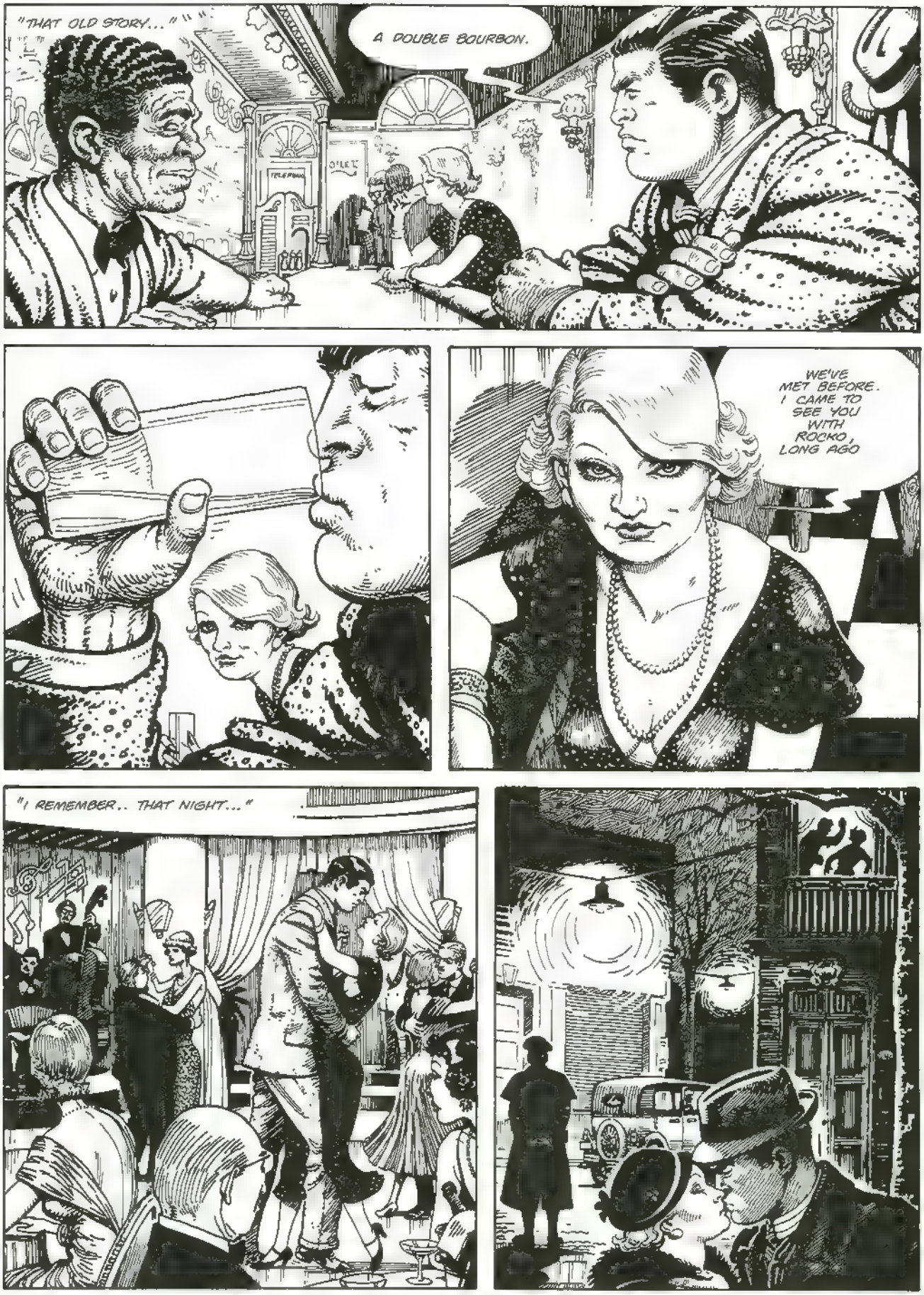

THE TRAFFIC, SIR...
PUT ON THE SIREN !

ABOUT A MONTH LATER....
MR COLM IS HERE TO SEE YOU.

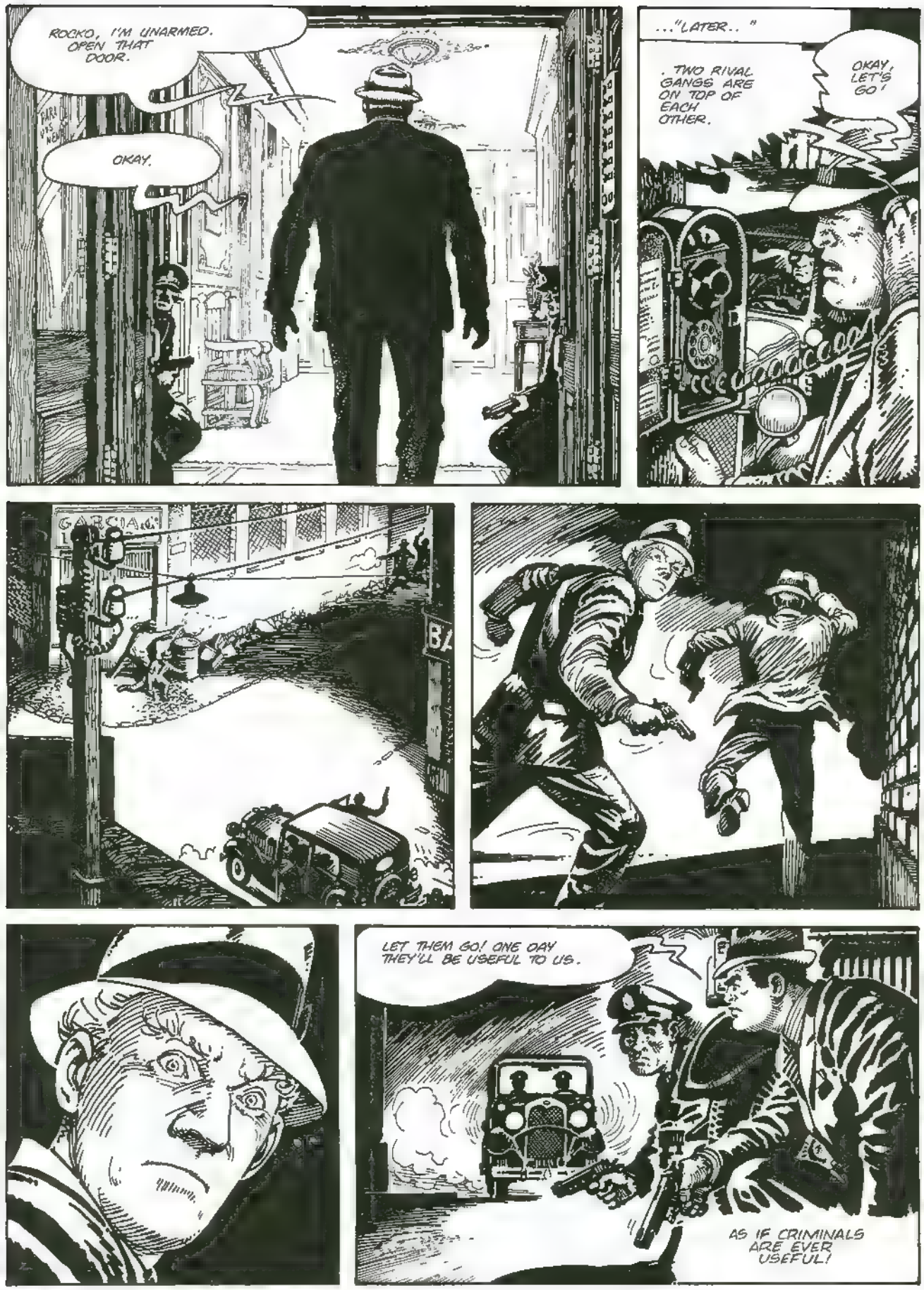
I'VE COME TO TELL YOU THAT WE'LL NEVER FIGHT AGAIN, I'M LEAVING BOXING.
WHAT ?... NOW ?

THE TITLE WILL BE YOURS NOBODY WILL BEAT YOU... NICE GARDEN.

THAT'S EVARISTO. THEY WON'T COME OUT OF THIS ALIVE.
YOU SEEM TO LIKE BLOOD-SHED.
I'M MOVING! I'M MOVING!
WHAT'S UP?
OLD COLM, THAT ASSHOLE, IS IN THERE. HE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU.
AND WHAT MAKES YOU SO SURE HE'S AN ASSHOLE?
WATCH YOUR MOUTH! THE CHIEF HATES NAME CALLING.
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE WE LAST SAW EACH OTHER?
I THINK THE CHIEF IS HERE.
LET'S WAIT FOR HIM TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.
MY CHILDREN... MY LOVELY WIFE....


"THAT OLD STORY..."
A DOUBLE BOURBON.
WE'VE MET BEFORE. I CAME TO SEE YOU WITH ROCKO, LONG AGO
"I REMEMBER.. THAT NIGHT..."

YOU'RE A VERY STRONG MAN, I FEEL SO PROTECTED.
I'M GOING SOFT, I'VE LEFT BOXING.
OH, AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?
POLICE WORK SEEMS I'VE GOT A KNACK FOR IT.
THEN YOU'LL MEET ROCKO AGAIN HE'S ON THE OTHER SIDE HE'S COMMITTED SO MANY CRIMES.
DON'T MAKE FOOLISH JOKES.
I'M NOT KIDDING, AND HE MUST NOT KNOW THAT WE MET....
WHY? WHAT COULD HAPPEN?
HE WOULD KILL YOU
CERVEZA
TAXI


ROCKO, I'M UNARMED. OPEN THAT DOOR.
OKAY.
..."LATER.. "
. TWO RIVAL GANGS ARE ON TOP OF EACH OTHER.
OKAY, LET'S GO!
GARCIA
LET THEM GO! ONE DAY THEY'LL BE USEFUL TO US.
AS IF CRIMINALS ARE EVER USEFUL!

IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I LAST SAW YOU!
HERE'S THE COP, EVARISTO.
I'VE SEEN THAT MAN IN ACTION, HE'S CRUEL, CRUEL!
THE CHIEF WILL TEACH HIM A LESSON, YOU'LL SEE!
AND THE CROOK, ROCKO.
YOU KNOW ME.
...A CAR TO GET OUT OF HERE, AND I WILL LET THESE PEOPLE GO. THE FAMILY WILL BE FREED HALF AN HOUR LATER, I'VE ALREADY GIVEN MY ORDERS
AND IF NO CAR, THEN WHAT?
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE... I'LL KILL THEM ALL... YOU KNOW ME....
SURE...! KNOW YOU...! KNOW YOU....

I WANT HER HERE IMMEDIATELY!
"THAT TIME..."
22
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
YOU TOOK MY GIRL.
I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS.
TOO BAD!

WHY DID YOU TELL HIM? IT ONLY HAPPENED ONCE!
WOMEN HAVE THEIR OWN PARTICULAR REASONS FOR DOING THINGS!
AND MEN HAVE THEIRS!
AND NOW... WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK IT OUT YOURSELF, MY DEAR!
WE'RE EVEN.. SHE'S YOURS.
IT CAN'T END LIKE THIS, I WANT ANOTHER MATCH!
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE, INSPECTOR?
CHIEF OF POLICE, I GOT PROMOTED YESTERDAY... HOW'S THE BUSINESS GOING?
WHA... WHAT BUSINESS?
KNEW ABOUT THE "BACKROOM", BUT I LOOKED THE OTHER WAY.

HOW ARE YOU?
NOT AS WELL AS YOU SEEM TO BE!
THEY WANT YOU INSIDE.
ROCKO! LOOK OUT THE WINDOW!
THOMPSON & WILLIAMS
MY GOD, IT'S HER!

THANK YOU, EVE! ROCKO IS NO MORE, THANKS TO YOU.
SO YOU WON THE LAST ROUND, YOU SONOFABITCH!
END

WE WANT YOUR MONEY

A B C D E Photo by Michael Reichwein

A Berni Wrightson's **Hanover Fiste** and his ne'er-do-well accomplice **Captain Sternn**. You've seen them in the magazine, you've seen them in the *Heavy Metal* movie, now see them coming and going. This durable four-color cotton **T-shirt** is a must for summer. **$7.50.**
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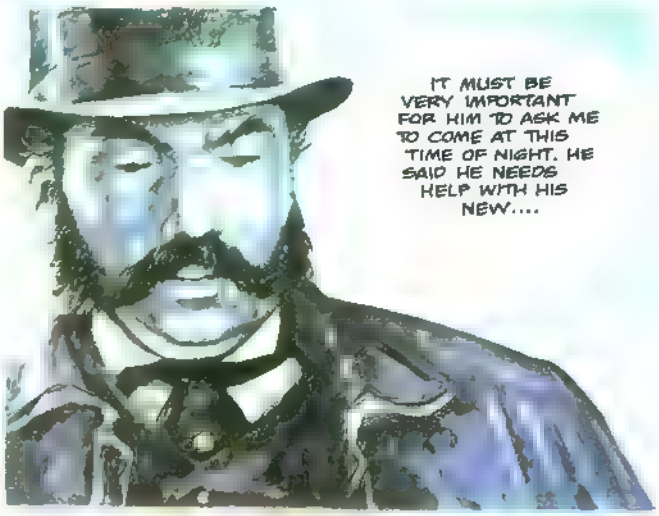
WHAT?... YES, YES RIGHT NOW. I'LL COME RIGHT AWAY!



...EXPERIMENT

by Justo Jimeno

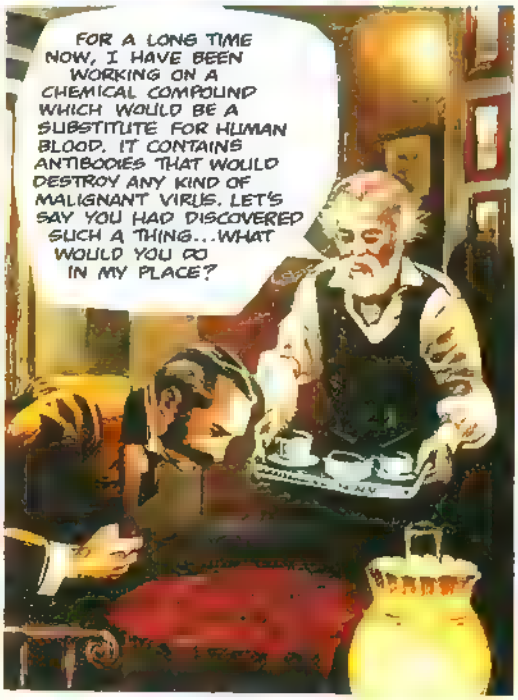
NO MATTER WHAT IT IS, I'M SURE IT'S WORTH MY TROUBLE. PROFESSOR HOWARD HAS NEVER LET ME DOWN.

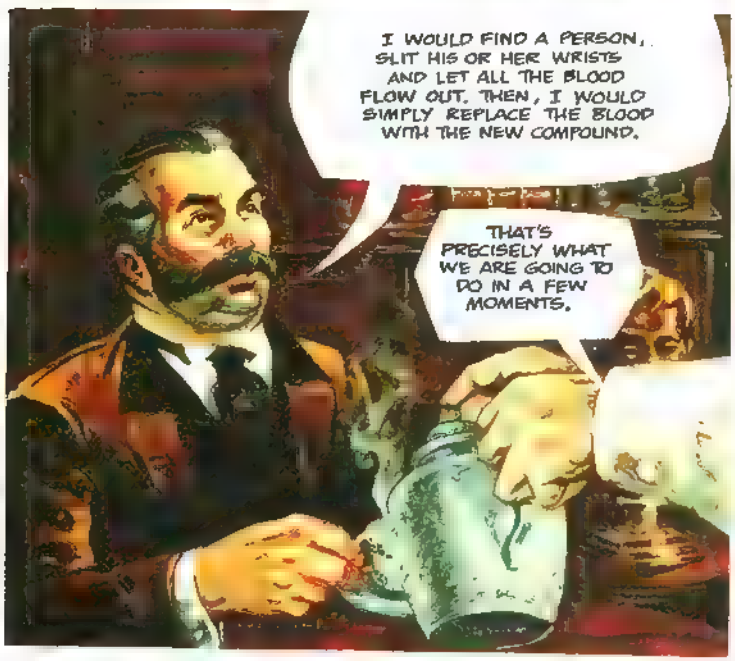
HERE IT IS. LET'S SEE WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.

COME IN, DR. CLIFFORD.

WOULD YOU BE SO KIND AS TO WAIT A MOMENT?.
DR. CLIFFORD!

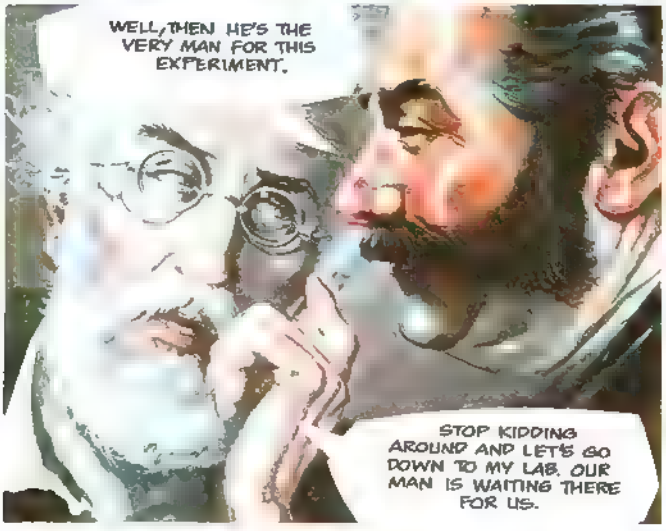
HOW ARE YOU, HOWARD. I SEE YOUR BUTLER HASN'T CHANGED. HE DISAPPEARED WITHOUT TAKING MY HAT OR COAT. TELL ME ..
PLEASE FORGIVE JACOB AND SIT DOWN. I HAVE PREPARED YOUR FAVORITE TEA.


FOR A LONG TIME NOW, I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON A CHEMICAL COMPOUND WHICH WOULD BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR HUMAN BLOOD. IT CONTAINS ANTIBODIES THAT WOULD DESTROY ANY KIND OF MALIGNANT VIRUS. LET'S SAY YOU HAD DISCOVERED SUCH A THING...WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN MY PLACE?


I WOULD FIND A PERSON, SLIT HIS OR HER WRISTS AND LET ALL THE BLOOD FLOW OUT. THEN, I WOULD SIMPLY REPLACE THE BLOOD WITH THE NEW COMPOUND.
THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO IN A FEW MOMENTS.

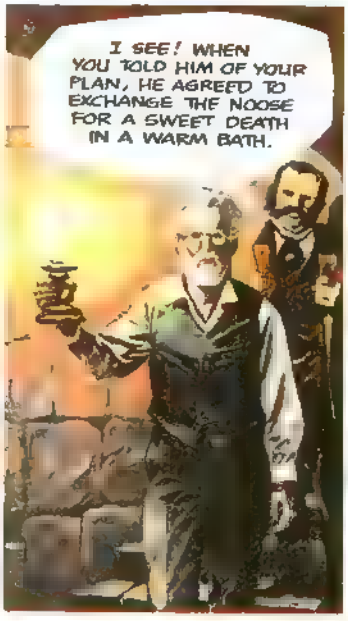
WHAT? DID YOU FIND SOMEBODY WILLING TO TRY THIS?

YOU HAVE A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR, CLIFFORD. THERE IS A REASON FOR HIS RUDENESS: I OWE HIM SIXTEEN MONTHS SALARY!


WELL, THEN HE'S THE VERY MAN FOR THIS EXPERIMENT.
STOP KIDDING AROUND AND LET'S GO DOWN TO MY LAB. OUR MAN IS WAITING THERE FOR US.

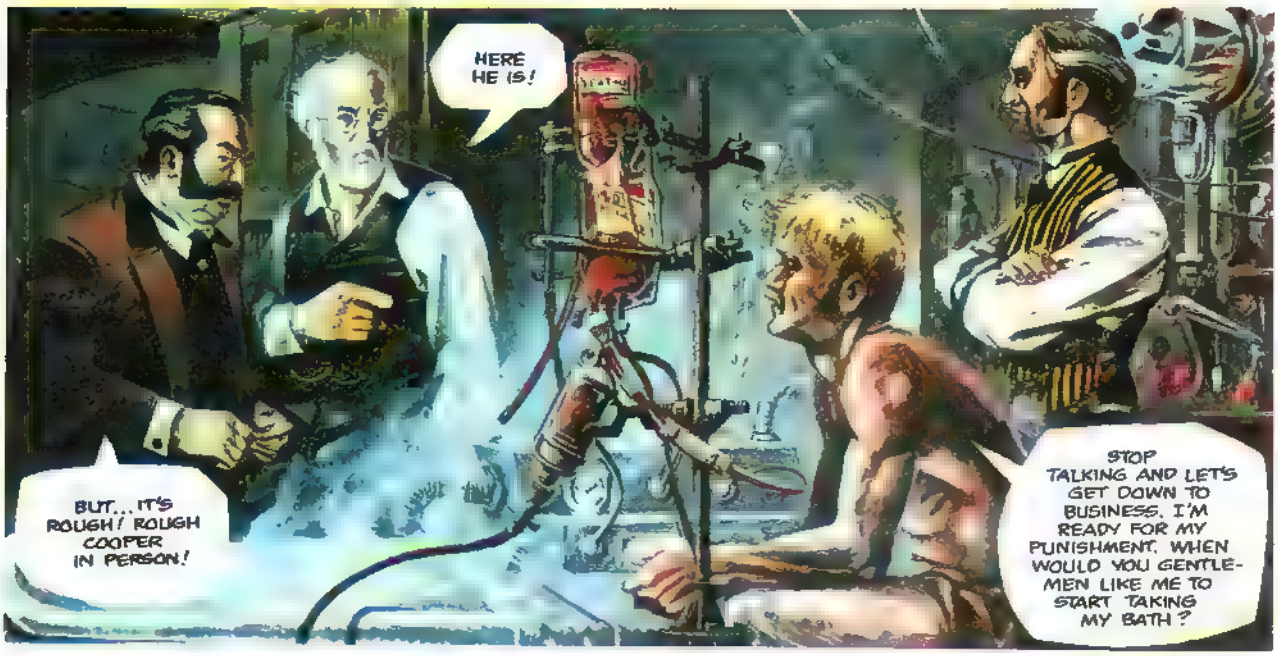
BUT... WHO CAN HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
SOMEBODY WHO REALLY DOESN'T HAVE ANY ALTERNATIVE A FEW HOURS AGO, HE BROKE INTO MY HOUSE. HE'S A THIEF. BUT...

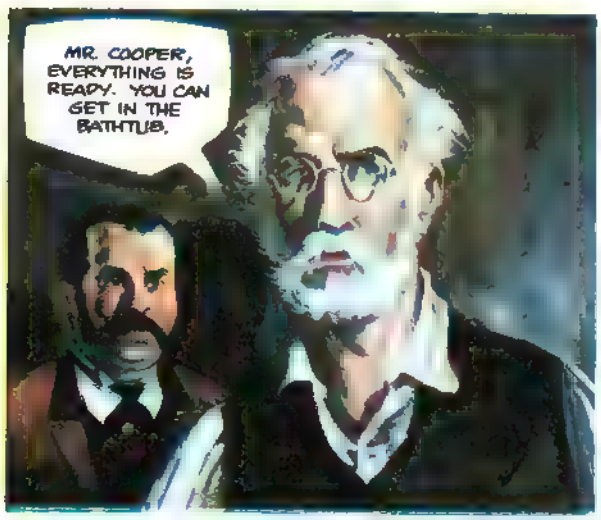
...HE OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T THINK HE WOULD FIND MY BUTLER, JACOB, WHO'S AN EX-BOXING CHAMPION FROM IRELAND. THIS GUY IS A MURDERER, WANTED BY THE POLICE. IF I LET HIM GO, THEY'LL HANG HIM.

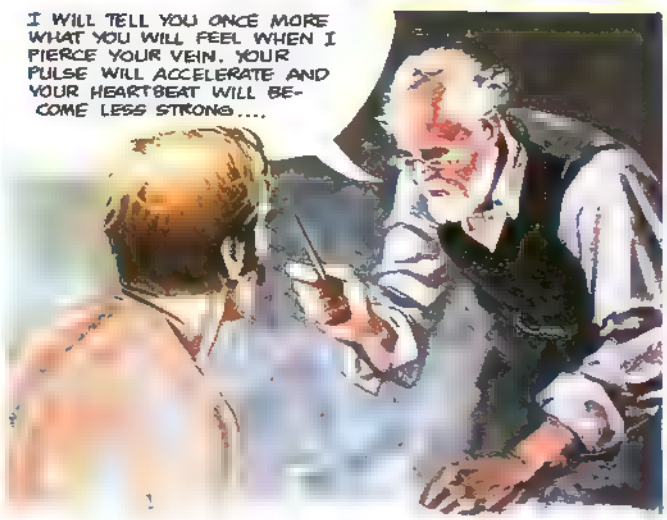


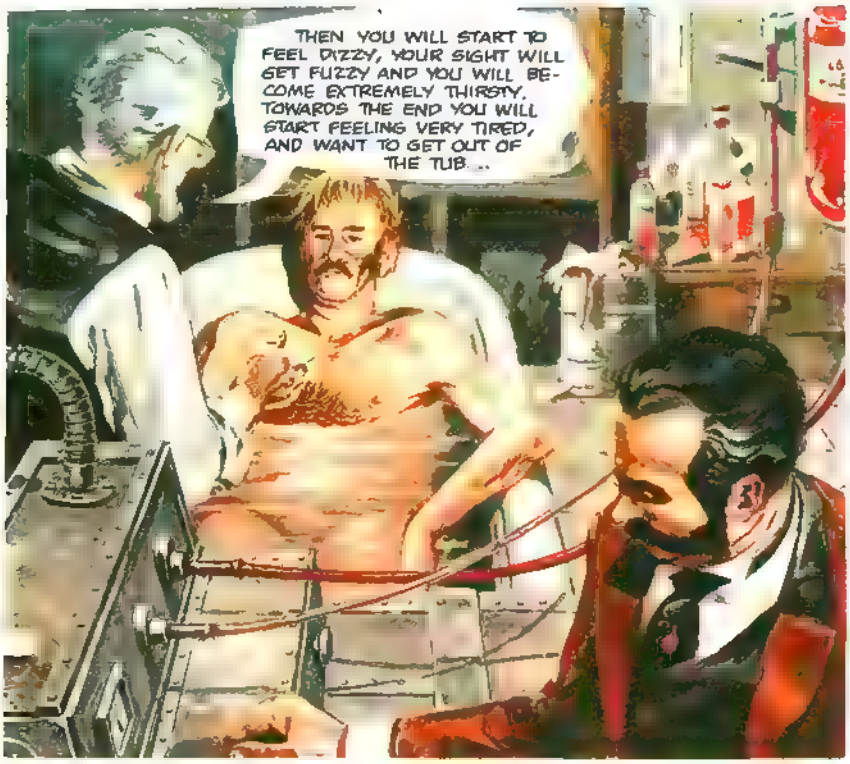
...HE WILL BE IMMUNE TO ANY AND ALL SICKNESSES RELATED TO THE BLOODSTREAM. AND WHAT'S MORE, I WILL GIVE HIM A PASSPORT AND HE WILL BE ABLE TO START A NEW LIFE SOMEWHERE ELSE.

AND WHAT DID HE HAVE TO SAY TO ALL THIS?
I TOLD HIM WHAT HE WOULD FEEL WHILE THE BLOOD WAS OOZING OUT OF HIM. HE KNOWS ALL THAT WILL HAPPEN AND HAS AGREED TO EVERYTHING. YOU CAN FIND THAT OUT FOR YOURSELF.

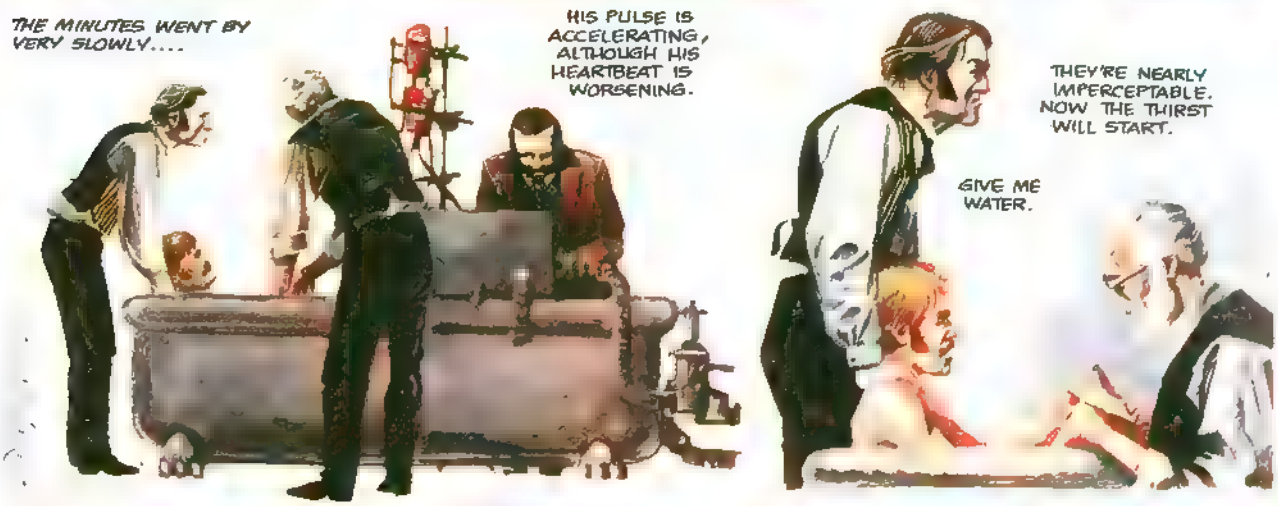

HERE HE IS!
BUT... IT'S ROUGH! ROUGH COOPER IN PERSON!
STOP TALKING AND LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS. I'M READY FOR MY PUNISHMENT. WHEN WOULD YOU GENTLEMEN LIKE ME TO START TAKING MY BATH?

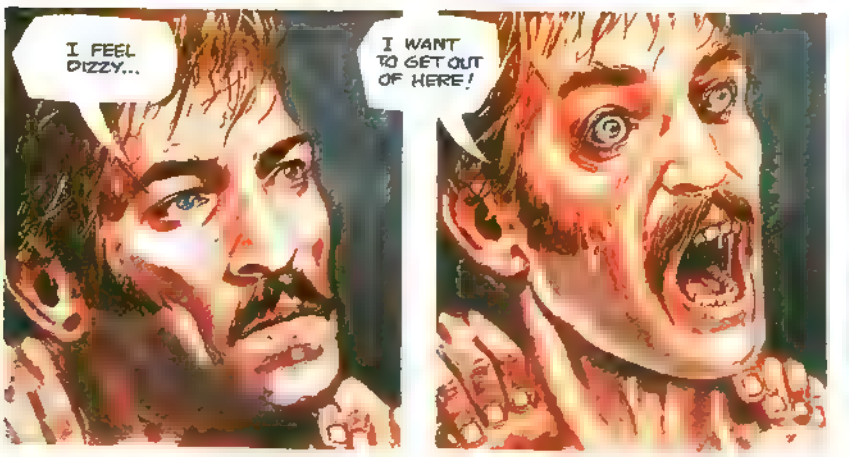

MR. COOPER, EVERYTHING IS READY. YOU CAN GET IN THE BATHTUB.


I WILL TELL YOU ONCE MORE WHAT YOU WILL FEEL WHEN I PIERCE YOUR VEIN. YOUR PULSE WILL ACCELERATE AND YOUR HEARTBEAT WILL BECOME LESS STRONG....


THEN YOU WILL START TO FEEL DIZZY, YOUR SIGHT WILL GET FUZZY AND YOU WILL BECOME EXTREMELY THIRSTY. TOWARDS THE END YOU WILL START FEELING VERY TIRED, AND WANT TO GET OUT OF THE TUB...

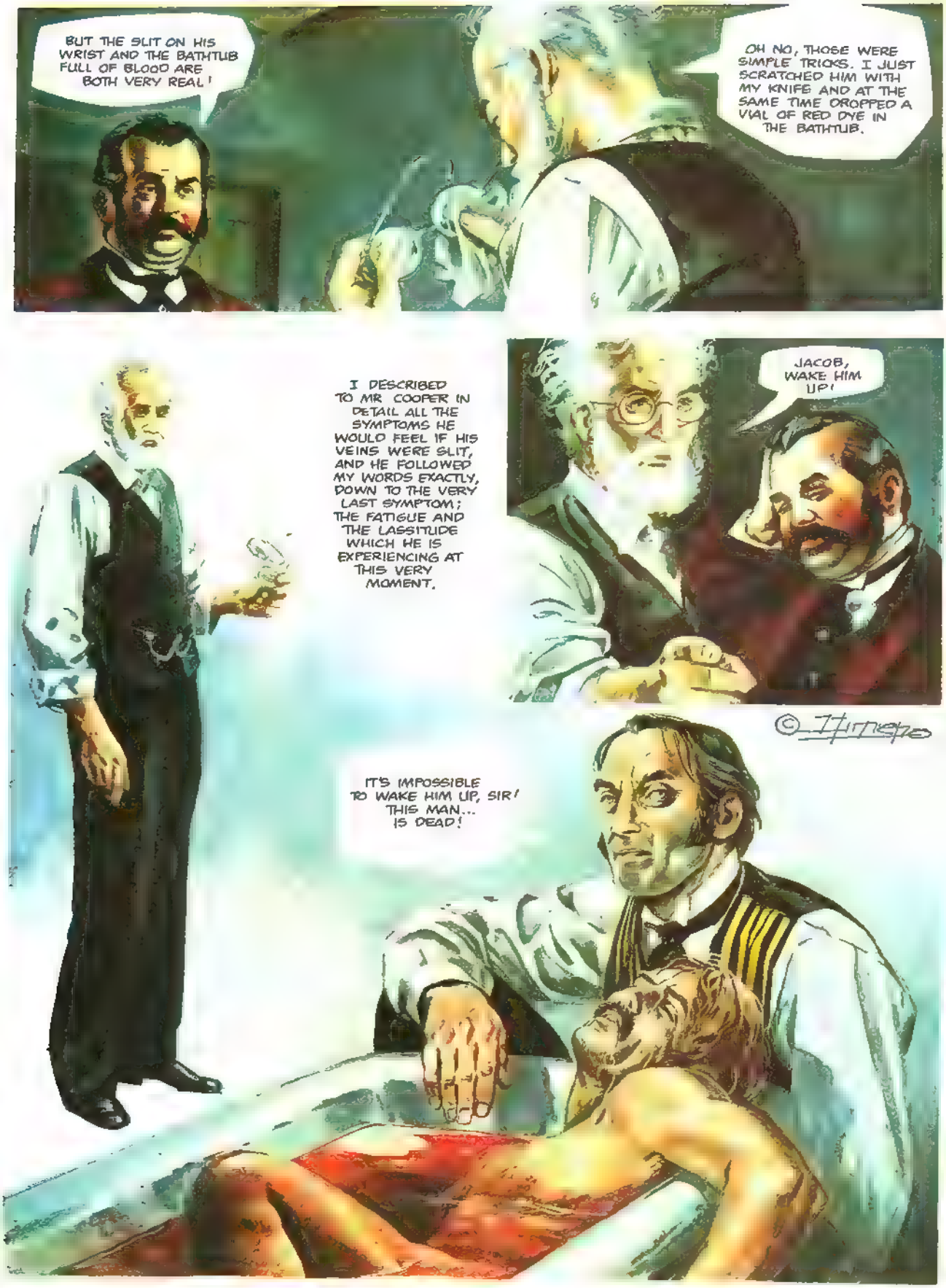
.. BUT IT WILL BE USELESS, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE. YOU WILL BE CLINICALLY DEAD.


THE MINUTES WENT BY VERY SLOWLY....
HIS PULSE IS ACCELERATING, ALTHOUGH HIS HEARTBEAT IS WORSENING.
THEY'RE NEARLY IMPERCEPTABLE. NOW THE THIRST WILL START.
GIVE ME WATER.


I FEEL DIZZY...
I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

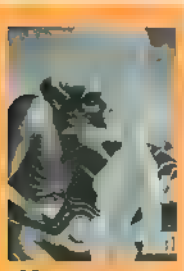
I.. WA. NT TO. OUT..

THE TIREDNESS; AND IN THE END TOTAL LASSITUDE. YOU CAN FREE HIM NOW, JACOB, HE WON'T MOVE.
HIS HEART HAS STOPPED BEATING.
HE'S LOST ALL HIS BLOOD, DOWN TO THE LAST DROP.
QUICK! LET'S PROCEED WITH THE TRANSFUSION.
LEAVE THAT CLIFFORD. THE EXPERIMENT WAS SUCCESSFUL.
WHAT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
CALM DOWN! I DIDN'T TELL YOU THE WHOLE TRUTH. PLEASE FORGIVE ME. THE EXPERIMENT WASN'T PRECISELY WHAT I HAD EXPLAINED TO YOU; IT REALLY HAD TO DO WITH SOMETHING TOTALLY DIFFERENT: AUTOSUGGESTION.
AUTOSUGGESTION? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOUR PRESENCE HERE, MY SURGEON'S KNIFE, AND ALL THAT I SAID AND DID IN THIS LAB TONIGHT WERE JUST MEANS I EMPLOYED TO PRODUCE A CERTAIN EFFECT IN THE MIND OF THAT MAN.


BUT THE SLIT ON HIS WRIST AND THE BATHTUB FULL OF BLOOD ARE BOTH VERY REAL!
OH NO, THOSE WERE SIMPLE TRICKS. I JUST SCRATCHED HIM WITH MY KNIFE AND AT THE SAME TIME DROPPED A VIAL OF RED DYE IN THE BATHTUB.
I DESCRIBED TO MR COOPER IN DETAIL ALL THE SYMPTOMS HE WOULD FEEL IF HIS VEINS WERE SLIT, AND HE FOLLOWED MY WORDS EXACTLY, DOWN TO THE VERY LAST SYMPTOM; THE FATIGUE AND THE LASSITUDE WHICH HE IS EXPERIENCING AT THIS VERY MOMENT.
JACOB, WAKE HIM UP!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO WAKE HIM UP, SIR! THIS MAN... IS DEAD!

END

BOOKSHELF



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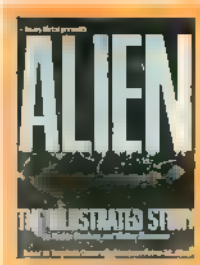

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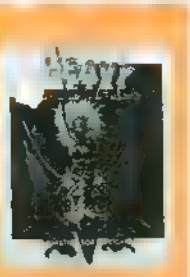

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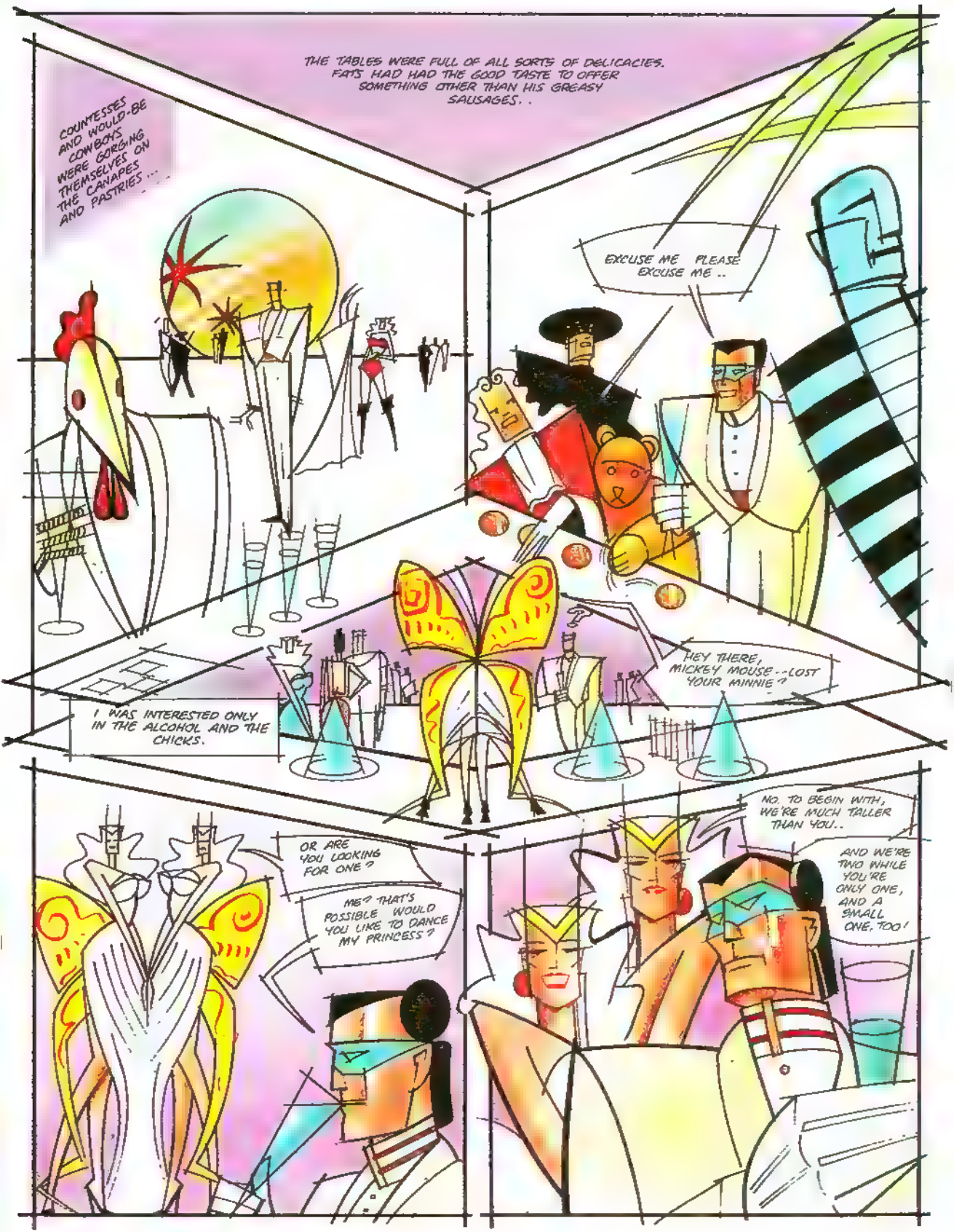
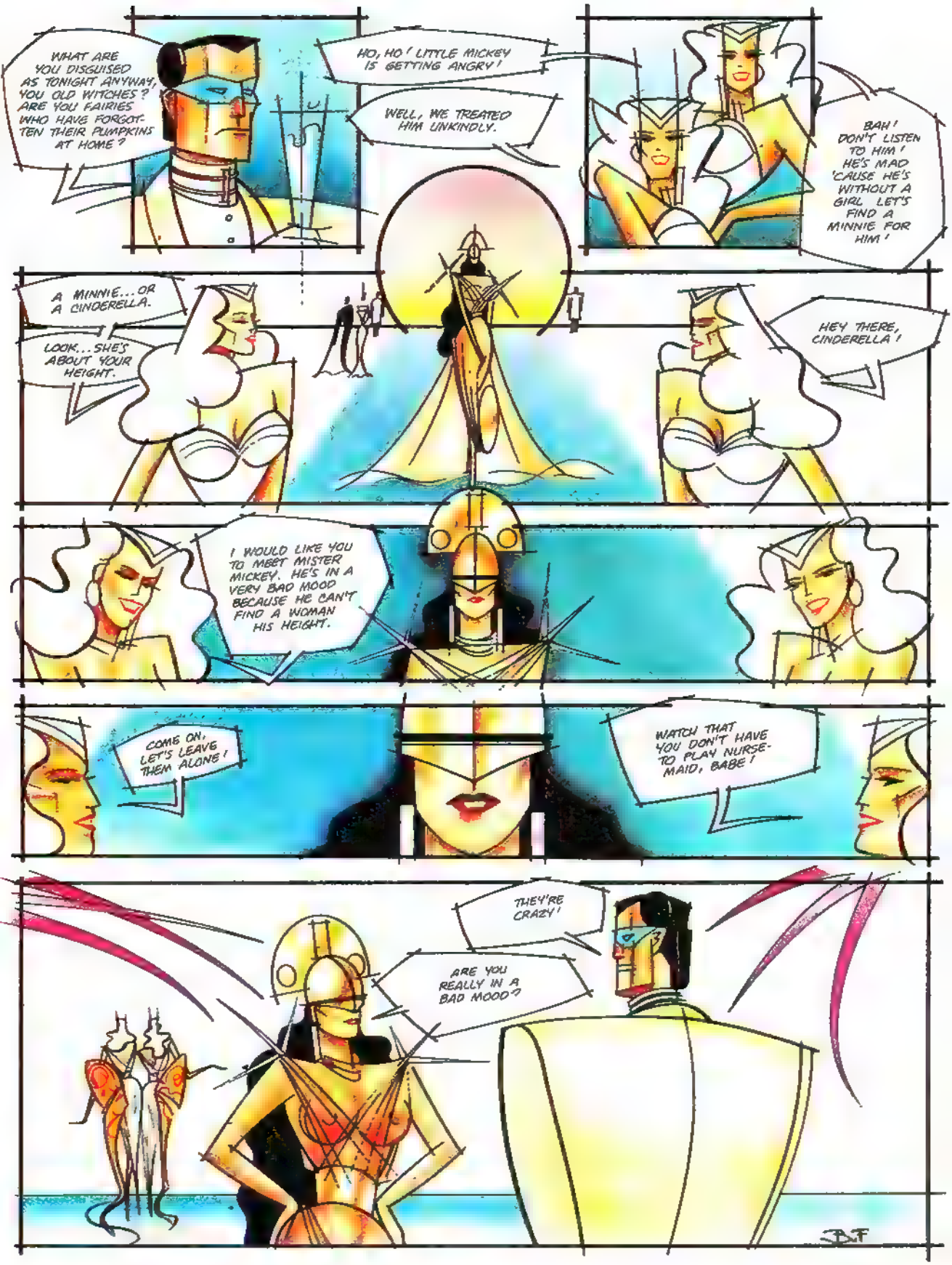
CINDERELLA

IS IT POSSIBLE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH A WOMAN WHOSE FACE YOU'VE NEVER SEEN? OR BECOME ENAMORED OF A BODY A PERFUME OR A VOICE? THIS MAY SEEM IMPOSSIBLE, OR AT LEAST CURIOUS .. BUT OF COURSE, IT IS PRECISELY WHAT HAPPENED TO ME!

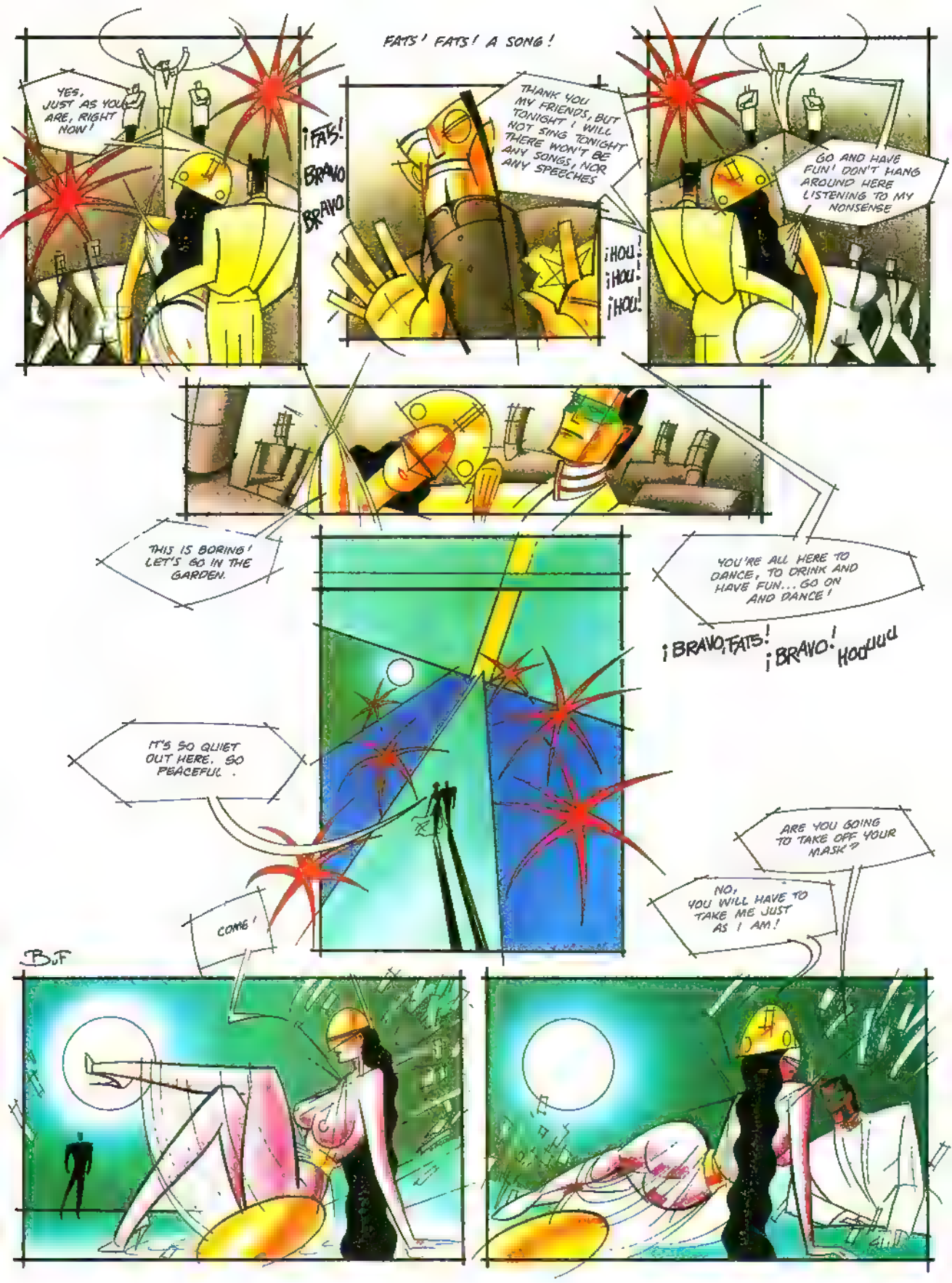
IT ALL STARTED ABOUT A YEAR AGO, AT A PARTY GIVEN BY FATS WALKER, THE KING OF SAUSAGES. THE PARTIES HE GIVES HAVE A WONDERFUL REPUTATION: THOSE WHO RECEIVE AN INVITATION MAKE SURE THEY ATTEND, AND THOSE WHO DON'T GET ONE, DO ANYTHING THEY CAN TO CRASH 'EM. THAT NIGHT, DECKED OUT IN MY MICKEY MOUSE HAT I WAS THOROUGHLY BORED AS USUAL.

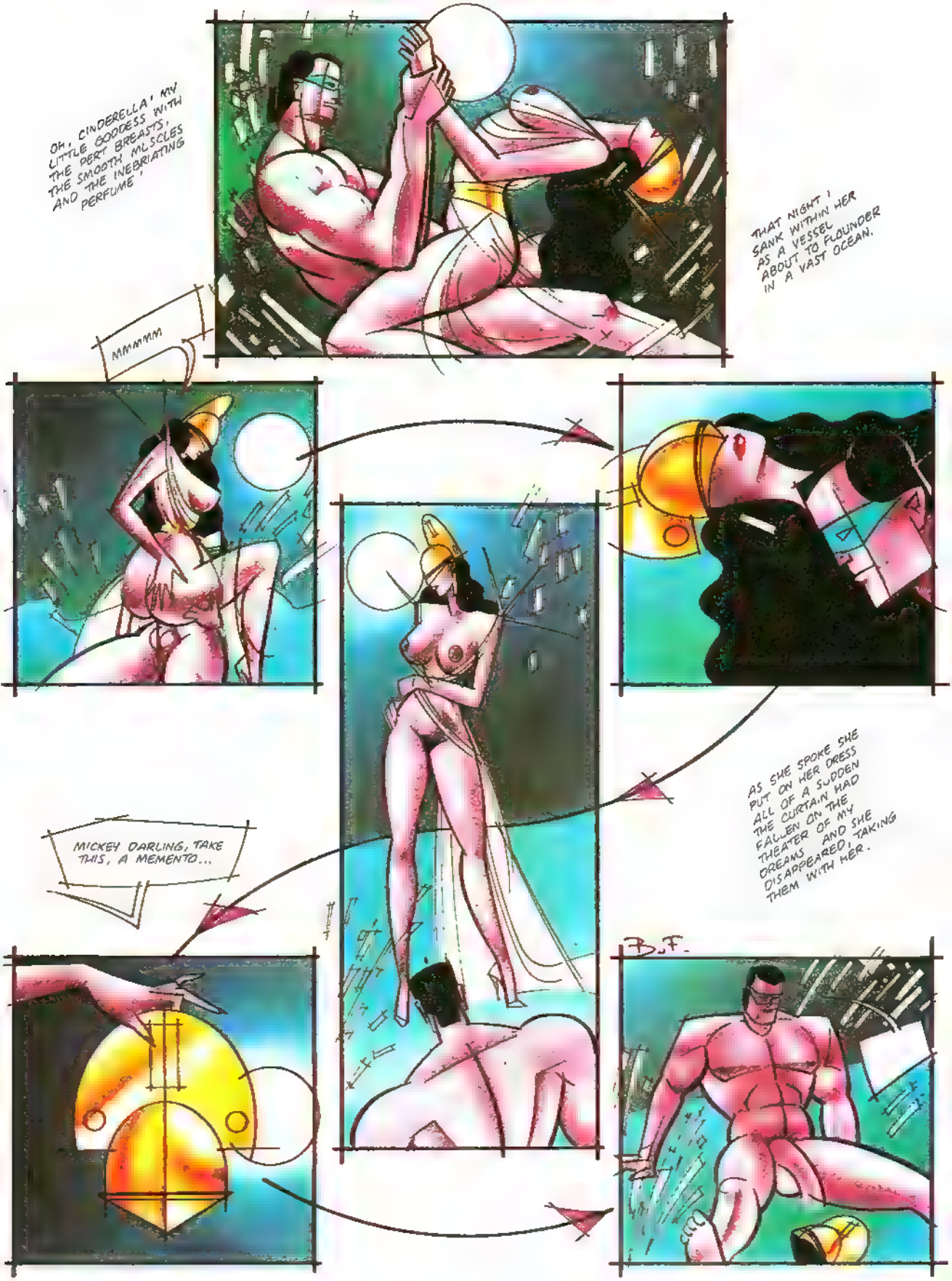
by Rudolphe Illustrated by Buffin


THE TABLES WERE FULL OF ALL SORTS OF DELICACIES. FATS HAD HAD THE GOOD TASTE TO OFFER SOMETHING OTHER THAN HIS GREASY SAUSAGES. .
COUNTESSES AND WOULD-BE COWBOYS WERE GORGING THEMSELVES ON THE CANAPES AND PASTRIES ...
EXCUSE ME PLEASE EXCUSE ME ..
HEY THERE, MICKEY MOUSE--LOST YOUR MINNIE?
I WAS INTERESTED ONLY IN THE ALCOHOL AND THE CHICKS.
NO. TO BEGIN WITH, WE'RE MUCH TALLER THAN YOU..
AND WE'RE TWO WHILE YOU'RE ONLY ONE, AND A SMALL ONE, TOO!
OR ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ONE?
ME? THAT'S POSSIBLE WOULD YOU LIKE TO DANCE MY PRINCESS?

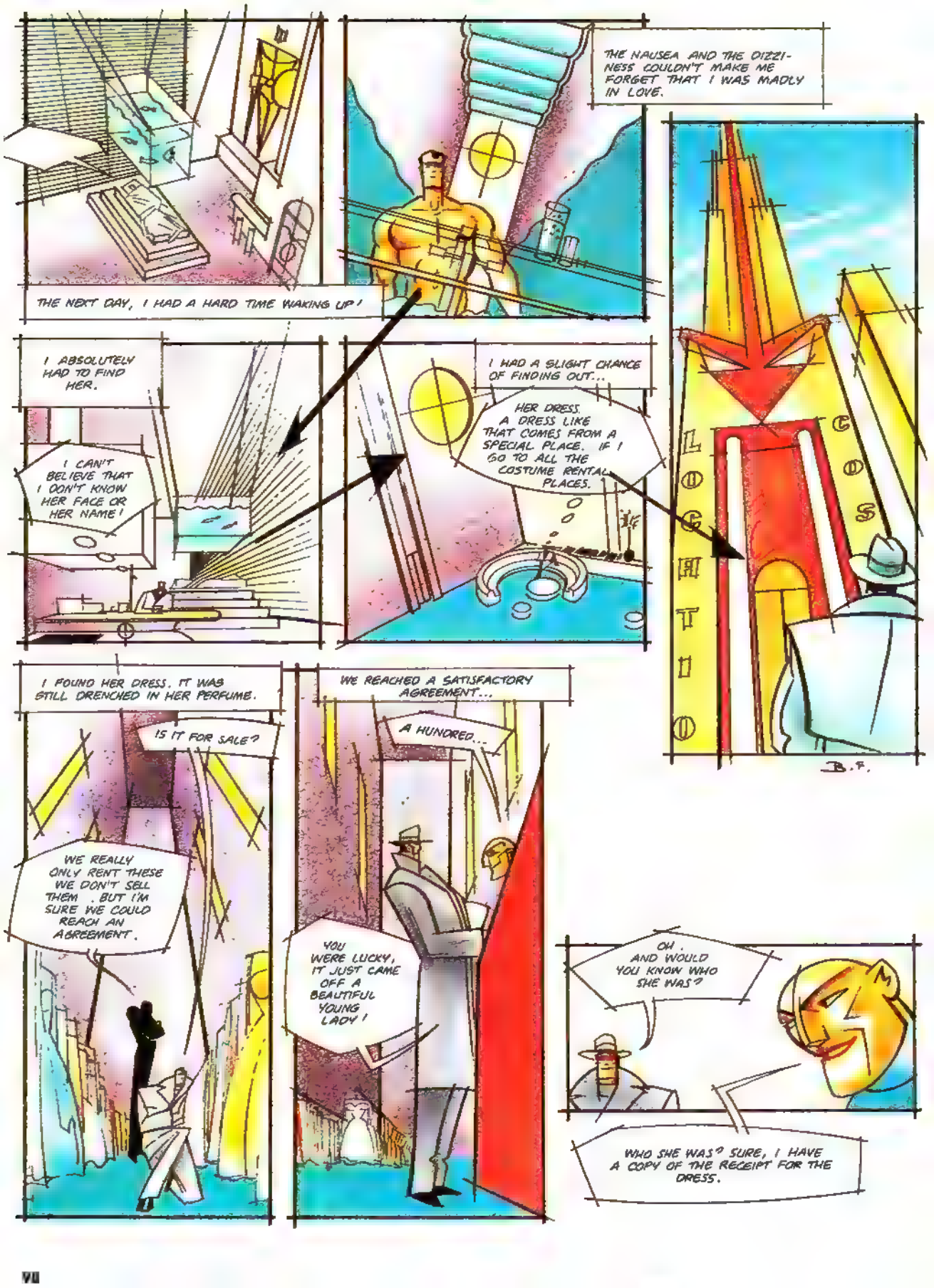

WHAT ARE YOU DISGUISED AS TONIGHT ANYWAY, YOU OLD WITCHES? ARE YOU FAIRIES WHO HAVE FORGOTTEN THEIR PUMPKINS AT HOME?
HO, HO! LITTLE MICKEY IS GETTING ANGRY!
WELL, WE TREATED HIM UNKINDLY.
BAH! DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! HE'S MAD 'CAUSE HE'S WITHOUT A GIRL. LET'S FIND A MINNIE FOR HIM!
A MINNIE... OR A CINDERELLA.
LOOK... SHE'S ABOUT YOUR HEIGHT.
HEY THERE, CINDERELLA!
I WOULD LIKE YOU TO MEET MISTER MICKEY. HE'S IN A VERY BAD MOOD BECAUSE HE CAN'T FIND A WOMAN HIS HEIGHT.
COME ON, LET'S LEAVE THEM ALONE!
WATCH THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO PLAY NURSE-MAID, BABE!
THEY'RE CRAZY!
ARE YOU REALLY IN A BAD MOOD?

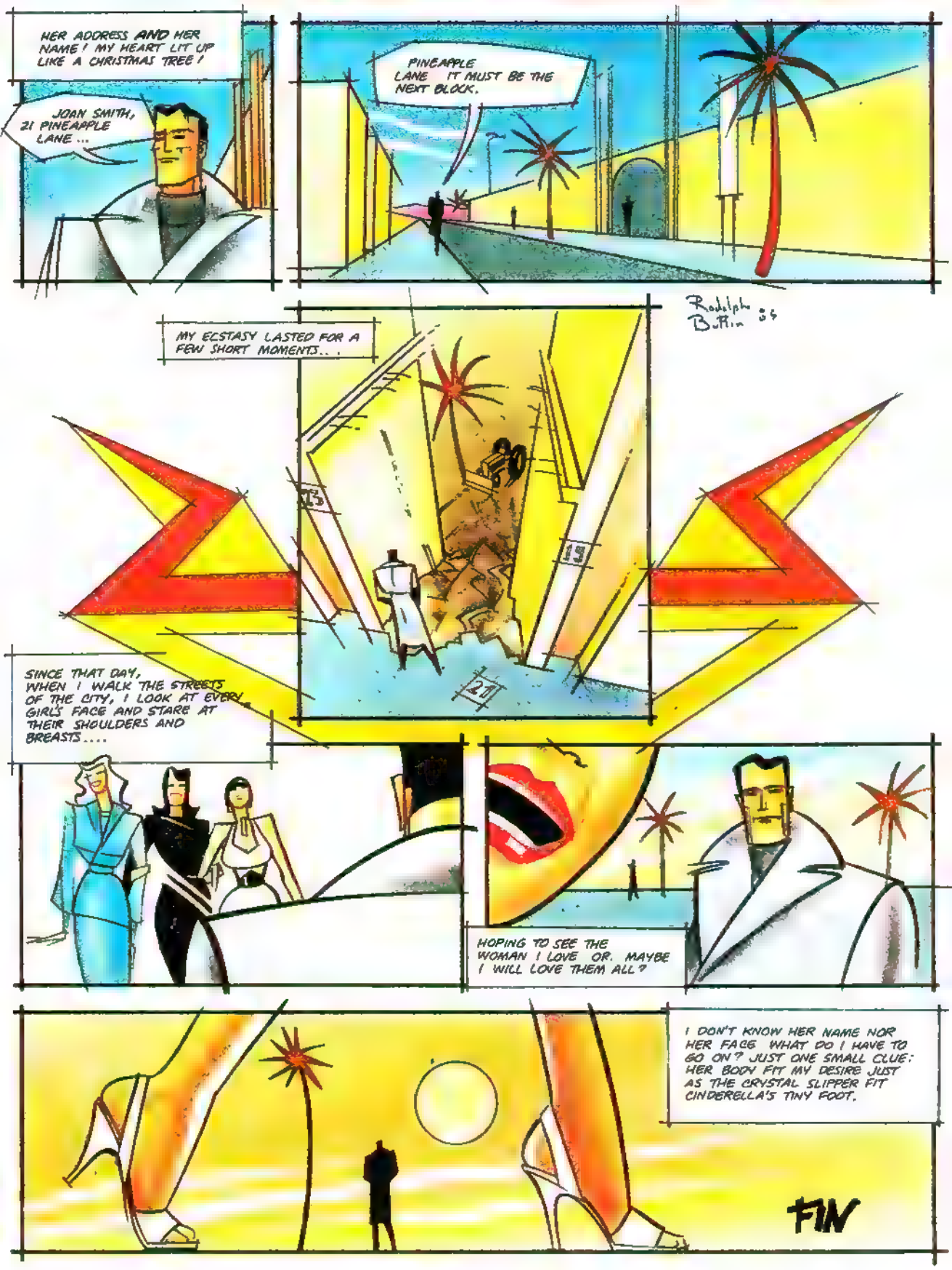
OF COURSE NOT! THEY JUST DID IT TO BOTHER ME!
CARE TO DANCE?
MMMM.. YES!
YOU ARE MY SPECIAL ANGEL...
D.F.
TELL ME, MY PRINCE, WHY DO YOU HAVE SUCH BIG EARS?
SO THAT I CAN HEAR YOU BETTER, MY TREASURE!
AND THESE BIG HANDS?
SO THAT I CAN KEEP YOU CLOSE TO ME ALWAYS.
AND WHY THOSE BIG TEETH?
YOU'D WANT TO EAT ME UP?
WELL, TO EAT YOU UP, OF COURSE!


FATS! FATS! A SONG!
YES, JUST AS YOU ARE, RIGHT NOW!
¡FATS! BRAVO BRAVO
THANK YOU MY FRIENDS, BUT TONIGHT I WILL NOT SING TONIGHT THERE WON'T BE ANY SONGS, NOR ANY SPEECHES
¡HOU! ¡HOU! ¡HOU!
GO AND HAVE FUN! DON'T HANG AROUND HERE LISTENING TO MY NONSENSE
THIS IS BORING! LET'S GO IN THE GARDEN.
YOU'RE ALL HERE TO DANCE, TO DRINK AND HAVE FUN... GO ON AND DANCE!
¡BRAVO, FATS! ¡BRAVO! Hooyuu
IT'S SO QUIET OUT HERE. SO PEACEFUL.
COME!
ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE OFF YOUR MASK?
NO, YOU WILL HAVE TO TAKE ME JUST AS I AM!
BUF


OH, CINDERELLA, MY LITTLE GODDESS WITH THE PERT BREASTS, THE SMOOTH MUSCLES AND THE INEBRIATING PERFUME!
MMMMM
THAT NIGHT, I SANK WITHIN HER AS A VESSEL ABOUT TO FLOUNDER IN A VAST OCEAN.
AS SHE SPOKE SHE PUT ON HER DRESS ALL OF A SUDDEN THE CURTAIN HAD FALLEN ON THE THEATER OF MY DREAMS AND SHE DISAPPEARED, TAKING THEM WITH HER.
MICKEY DARLING, TAKE THIS, A MEMENTO...
B.F.

I TRIED TO FIND HER AMONG ALL THE GUESTS.
EXCUSE ME PLEASE EXCUSE ME
NO USE SHE HAD EITHER LEFT OR SHE HAD CHANGED HER DRESS
HOW CAN I RECOGNIZE HER?
THE TWINS WERE OF NO HELP
NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER I DIDN'T KNOW HER I JUST INTRODUCED YOU, SORT OF AS A JOKE!
MINNIE? DID SHE LEAVE YOU ALREADY?
ALL OF A SUDDEN, THE PEOPLE SEEMED TO ME VERY STUPID, AND THE PARTY VERY DEPRESSING
I FELT VERY LONELY, SO I STARTED DRINKING, TO HELP ME FORGET.
I DRANK A LOT .
TOMORROW WILL BE TOO LATE IT'S NOW OR NEVER...


THE NEXT DAY, I HAD A HARD TIME WAKING UP!
THE NAUSEA AND THE DIZZINESS COULDN'T MAKE ME FORGET THAT I WAS MADLY IN LOVE.
I ABSOLUTELY HAD TO FIND HER.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I DON'T KNOW HER FACE OR HER NAME!
I HAD A SLIGHT CHANCE OF FINDING OUT...
HER DRESS. A DRESS LIKE THAT COMES FROM A SPECIAL PLACE. IF I GO TO ALL THE COSTUME RENTAL PLACES.
LOCATIO COS
B.F.
I FOUND HER DRESS. IT WAS STILL DRENCHED IN HER PERFUME.
IS IT FOR SALE?
WE REALLY ONLY RENT THESE WE DON'T SELL THEM. BUT I'M SURE WE COULD REACH AN AGREEMENT.
WE REACHED A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT...
A HUNDRED...
YOU WERE LUCKY, IT JUST CAME OFF A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY!
OH. AND WOULD YOU KNOW WHO SHE WAS?
WHO SHE WAS? SURE, I HAVE A COPY OF THE RECEIPT FOR THE DRESS.


HER ADDRESS AND HER NAME! MY HEART LIT UP LIKE A CHRISTMAS TREE!
JOAN SMITH, 21 PINEAPPLE LANE...
PINEAPPLE LANE IT MUST BE THE NEXT BLOCK.
Rodolphe Bellin 84
MY ECSTASY LASTED FOR A FEW SHORT MOMENTS...
13
19
21
SINCE THAT DAY, WHEN I WALK THE STREETS OF THE CITY, I LOOK AT EVERY GIRL'S FACE AND STARE AT THEIR SHOULDERS AND BREASTS....
HOPING TO SEE THE WOMAN I LOVE OR, MAYBE I WILL LOVE THEM ALL?
I DON'T KNOW HER NAME NOR HER FACE. WHAT DO I HAVE TO GO ON? JUST ONE SMALL CLUE: HER BODY FIT MY DESIRE JUST AS THE CRYSTAL SLIPPER FIT CINDERELLA'S TINY FOOT.
FIN

DOCTOR! DOCTOR!

SO, YOU SAY YOU HAVE STOMACH PAINS? WHY DON'T YOU UNDRESS AND I'LL EXAMINE YOU
OKAY!
READY YET?
NO, NO, NOT YET
I HAVE ANOTHER PATIENT COMING IN TEN MINUTES!
I KNOW! I KNOW

READY?
HERE'LY!
OKEY, I'M READY!
OH, DO I HAVE TO TAKE MY UNDERWEAR OFF?
NICOLE CLAVELOUX
FIN

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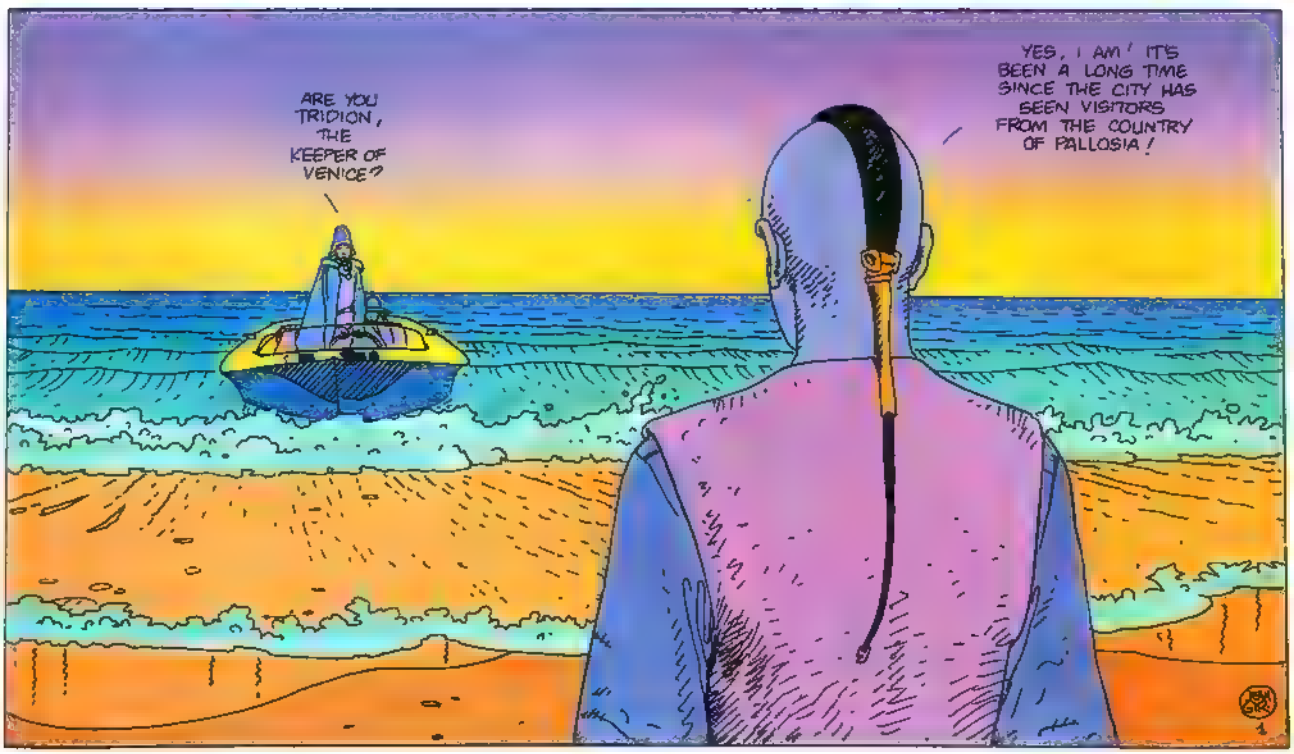
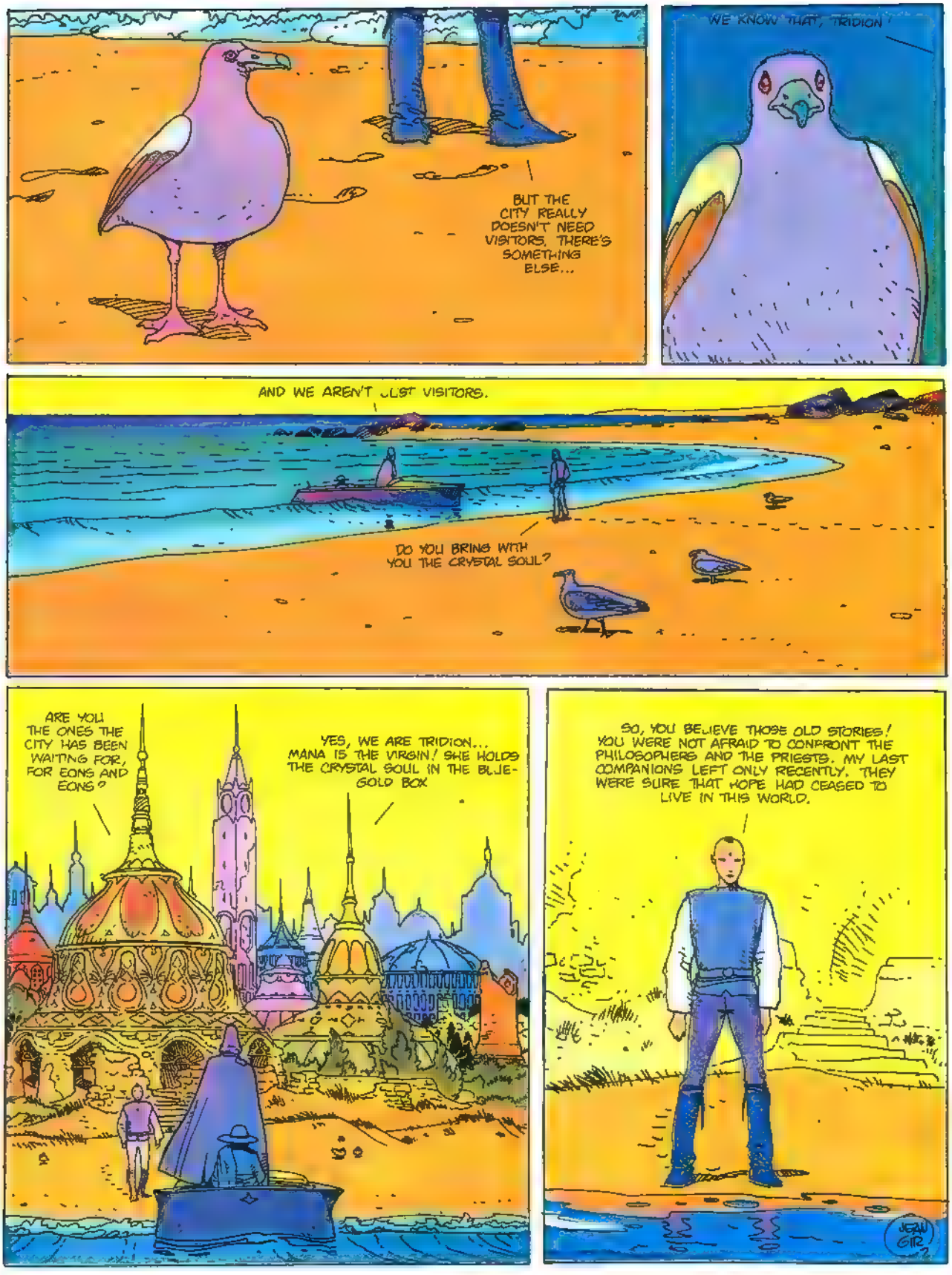
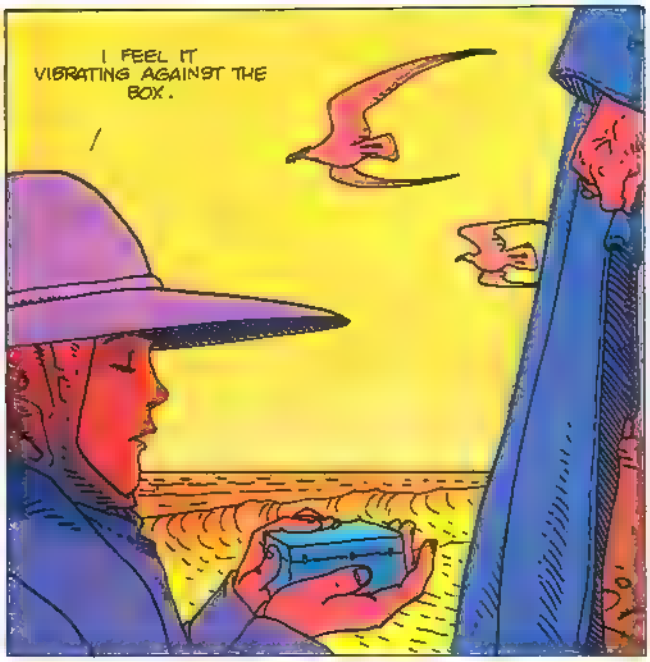
CELESTIAL VENICE

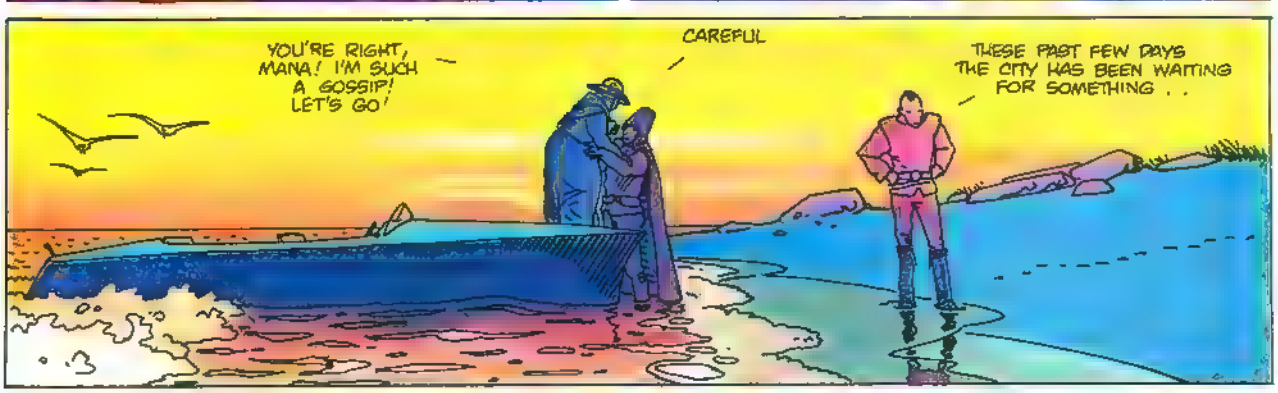
"BUT... HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR A CITY TO FLY OUT INTO SPACE? FIRST OF ALL, IT MUST BE A VENICE!... VERY OFTEN, A VENICE HAS TO FLY TO A NEW PLANET... BUT IF SHE'S NOT GIVEN A NEW SOUL, SHE IS DESTINED TO SINK SLOWLY TO THE VERY CENTER OF THE PLANET..."

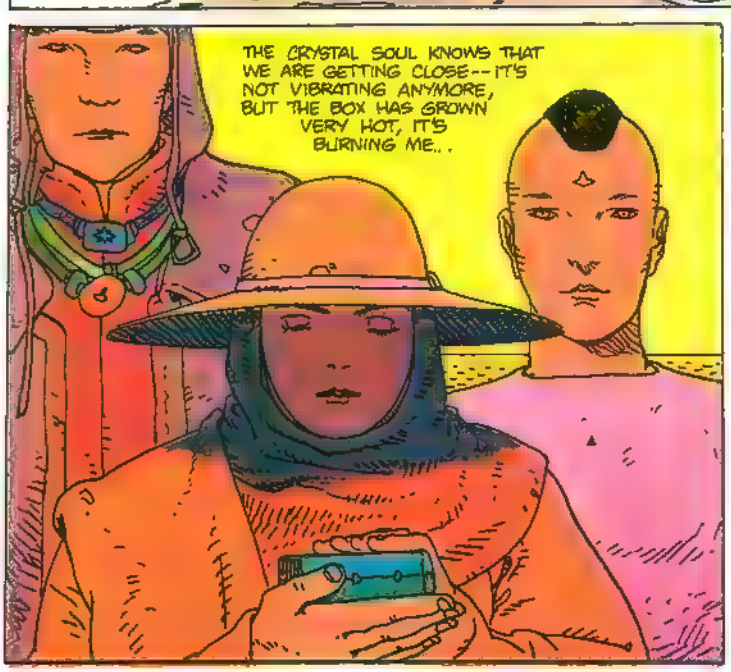

ARE YOU TRIDION, THE KEEPER OF VENICE?
YES, I AM! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE THE CITY HAS SEEN VISITORS FROM THE COUNTRY OF PALLOSIA!


BUT THE CITY REALLY DOESN'T NEED VISITORS, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...
WE KNOW THAT, TRIDION!
AND WE AREN'T JUST VISITORS.
DO YOU BRING WITH YOU THE CRYSTAL SOUL?
ARE YOU THE ONES THE CITY HAS BEEN WAITING FOR, FOR EONS AND EONS?
YES, WE ARE TRIDION... MANA IS THE VIRGIN! SHE HOLDS THE CRYSTAL SOUL IN THE BLUE-GOLD BOX
SO, YOU BELIEVE THOSE OLD STORIES! YOU WERE NOT AFRAID TO CONFRONT THE PHILOSOPHERS AND THE PRIESTS. MY LAST COMPANIONS LEFT ONLY RECENTLY. THEY WERE SURE THAT HOPE HAD CEASED TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD.
JEAN GIR

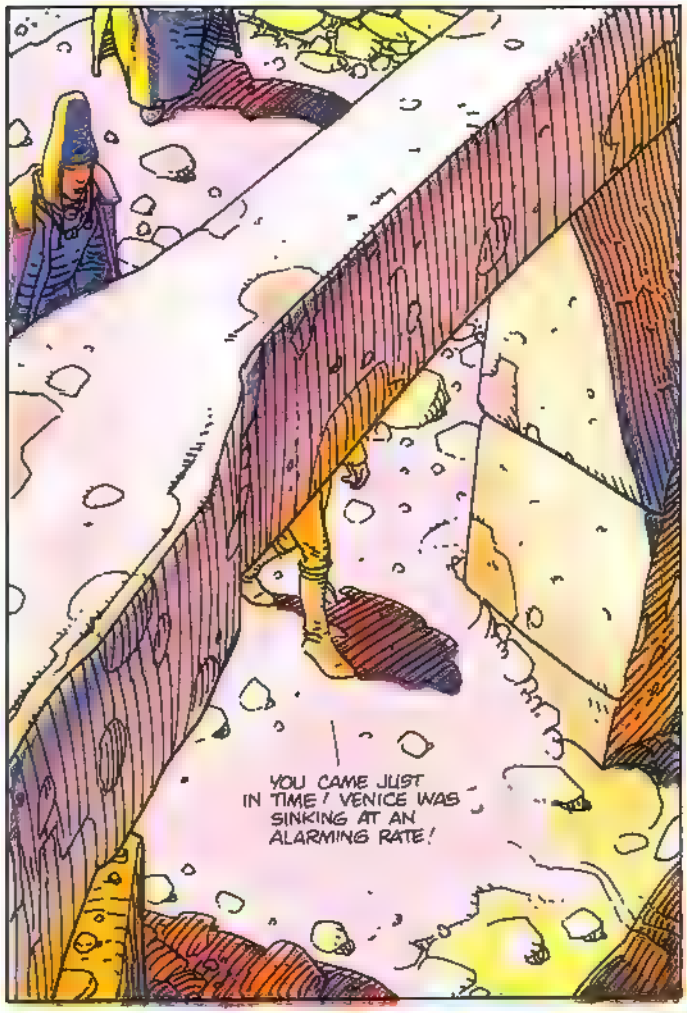
ON THE CONTRARY, TRIDION! HOPE IS VERY MUCH ALIVE! IT WAS THE PHILOSOPHERS THEMSELVES WHO MADE IT LIVE AGAIN, AND RESURRECTED THE LEGEND OF THE CELESTIAL VENICE... THE PRIESTS WERE THE ONES WHO STARTED US ON THE ROAD TO THE CRYSTAL SOUL.
STOP BABBLING ON, SINCERO... THE CRYSTAL SOUL IS GETTING IMPATIENT...

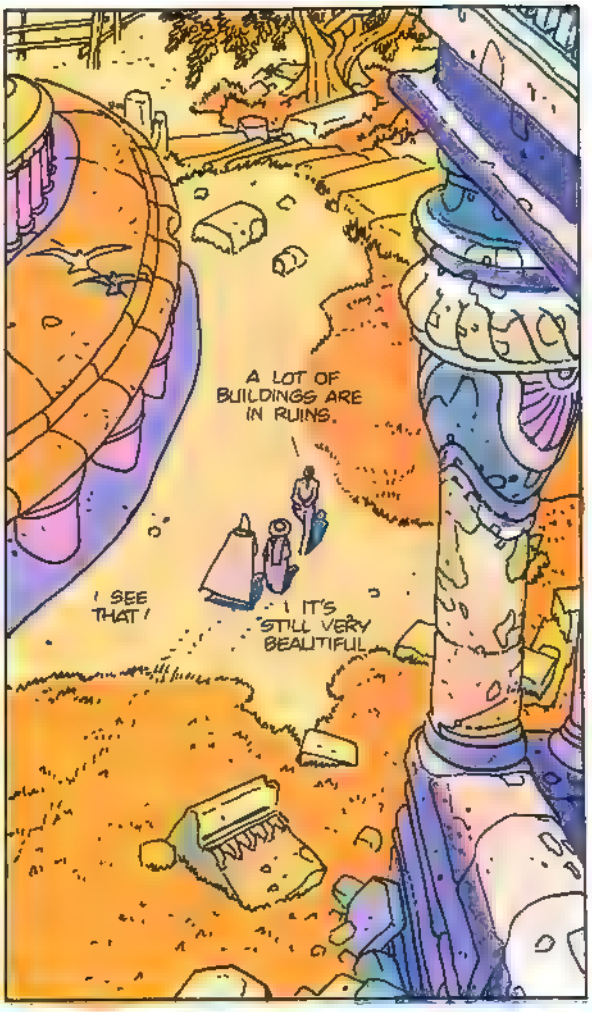

I FEEL IT VIBRATING AGAINST THE BOX.

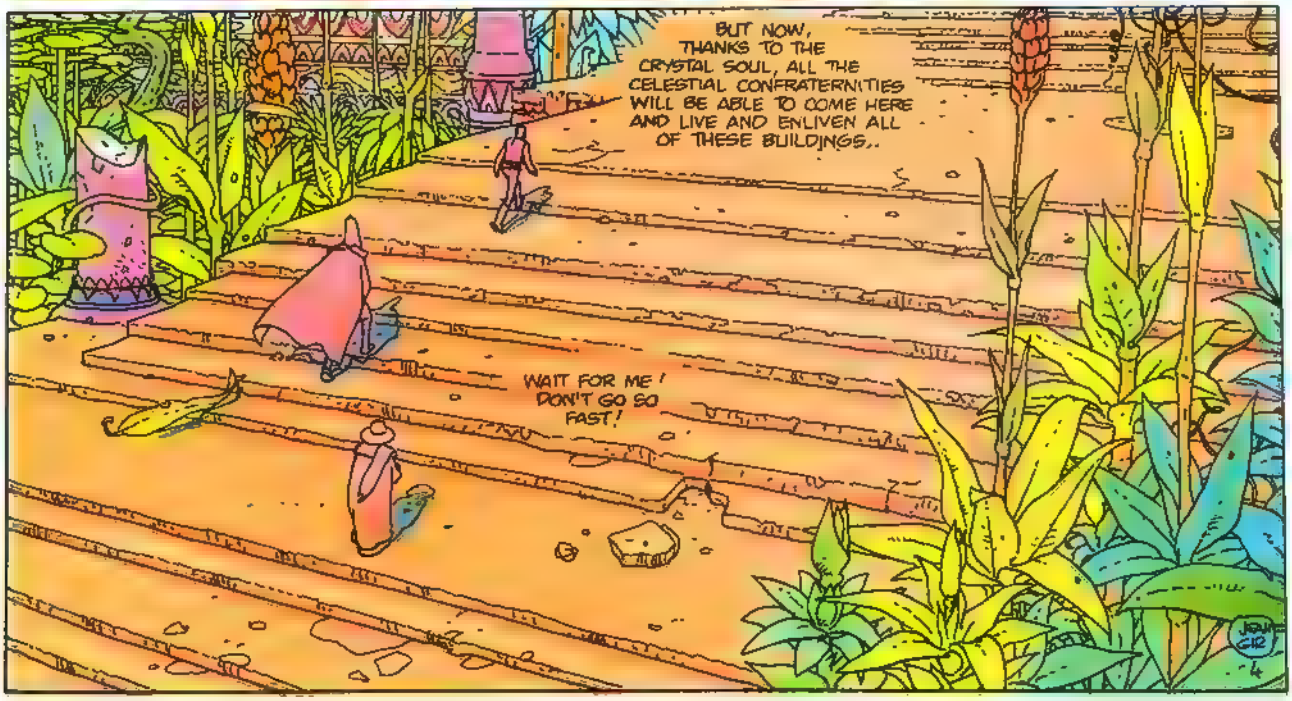

YOU'RE RIGHT, MANA! I'M SUCH A GOSSIP! LET'S GO!
CAREFUL
THESE PAST FEW DAYS THE CITY HAS BEEN WAITING FOR SOMETHING . .


THE CRYSTAL SOUL KNOWS THAT WE ARE GETTING CLOSE-- IT'S NOT VIBRATING ANYMORE, BUT THE BOX HAS GROWN VERY HOT, IT'S BURNING ME..

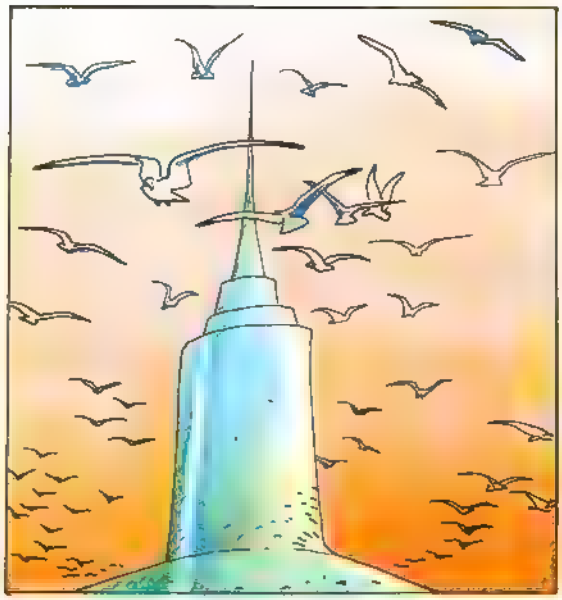
I AM THE LAST OF THE OLD BELIEVERS!
I AM THE FIRST OF THE NEW BELIEVERS!
THAT'S RIGHT! SINCERO WAS THE FIRST TO THINK OF THIS, BEFORE EVERYONE ELSE IN PALLOSIA...
5

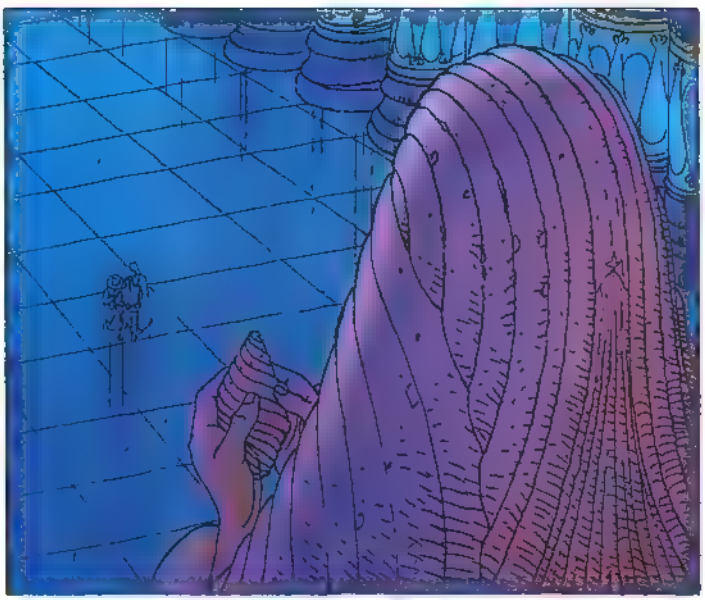

YOU CAME JUST IN TIME! VENICE WAS SINKING AT AN ALARMING RATE!

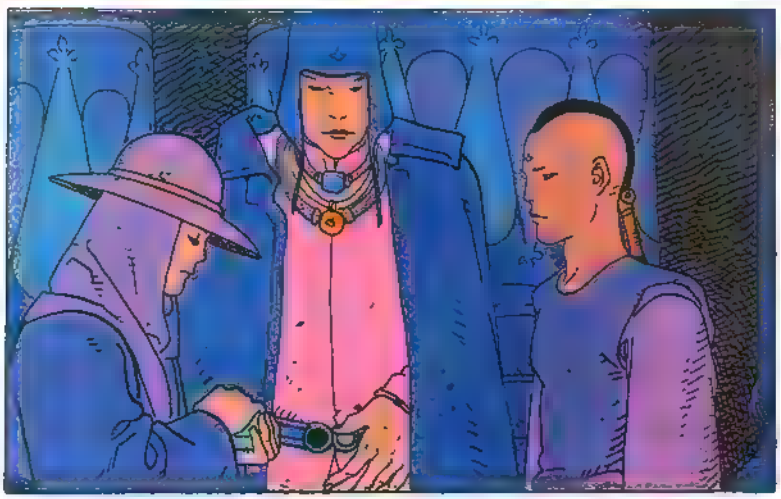

A LOT OF BUILDINGS ARE IN RUINS.
I SEE THAT!
IT'S STILL VERY BEAUTIFUL

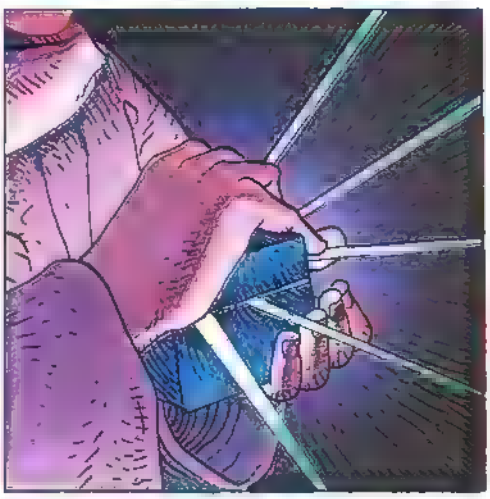

BUT NOW, THANKS TO THE CRYSTAL SOUL, ALL THE CELESTIAL CONFRATERNITIES WILL BE ABLE TO COME HERE AND LIVE AND ENLIVEN ALL OF THESE BUILDINGS..
WAIT FOR ME! DON'T GO SO FAST!

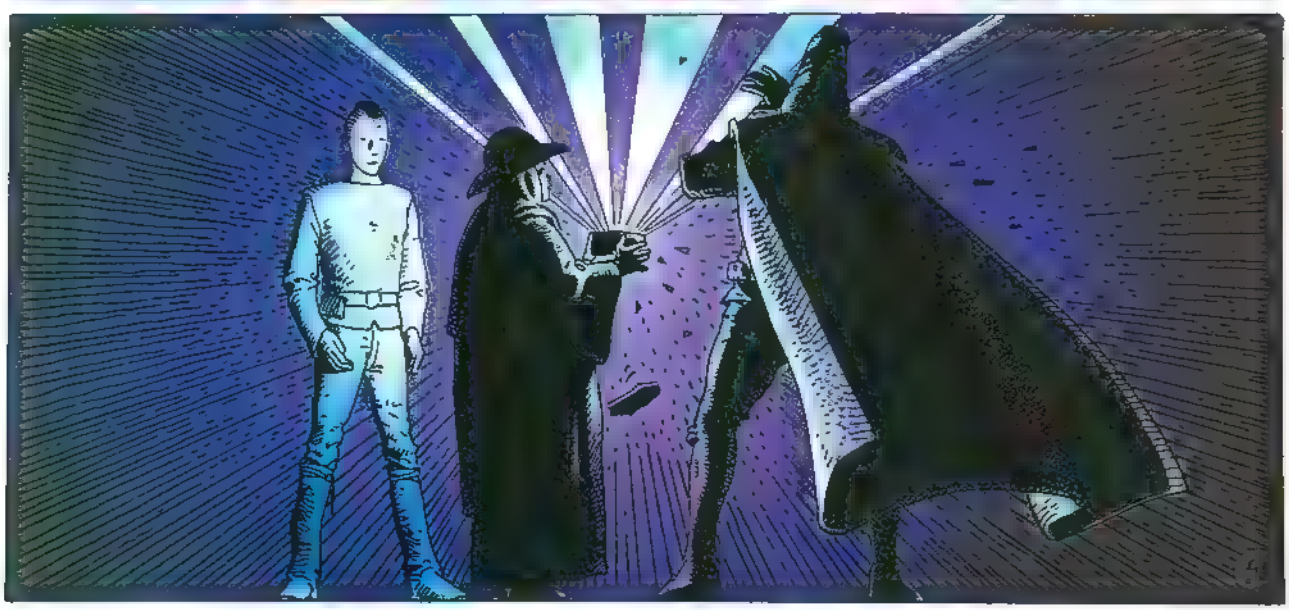
THE PALACE OF THE COSMIC MOTHER THE REVERBERATING STATUE IS STILL ALIVE, BUT A LOT OF ITS CIRCUITS ARE NO LONGER WORKING BECAUSE OF CENTURIES OF NEGLECT
THE BLUE TEMPLE!
THE CRYSTAL SOUL IS SINGING FOR JOY, TRIDION! IT WILL REESTABLISH THOSE CIRCUITS AND TAKE YOU BACK TOWARDS THE FATHER.
FROM NOW ONWARDS, NO WORD SHALL BE UTTERED!
IT DOESN'T MATTER! THE CRYSTAL SOUL WILL TAKE ME THERE. I DON'T NEED WORDS TO GUIDE ME!
JEAN GIR.

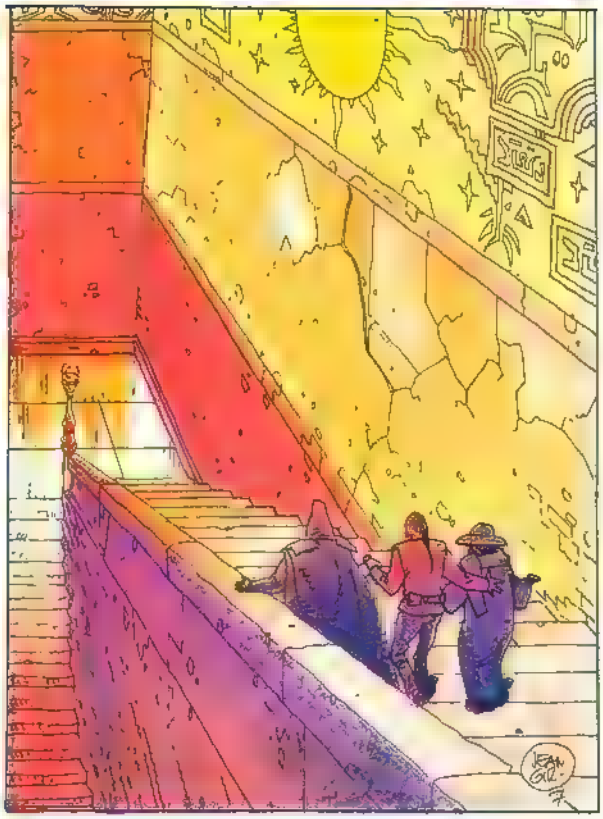


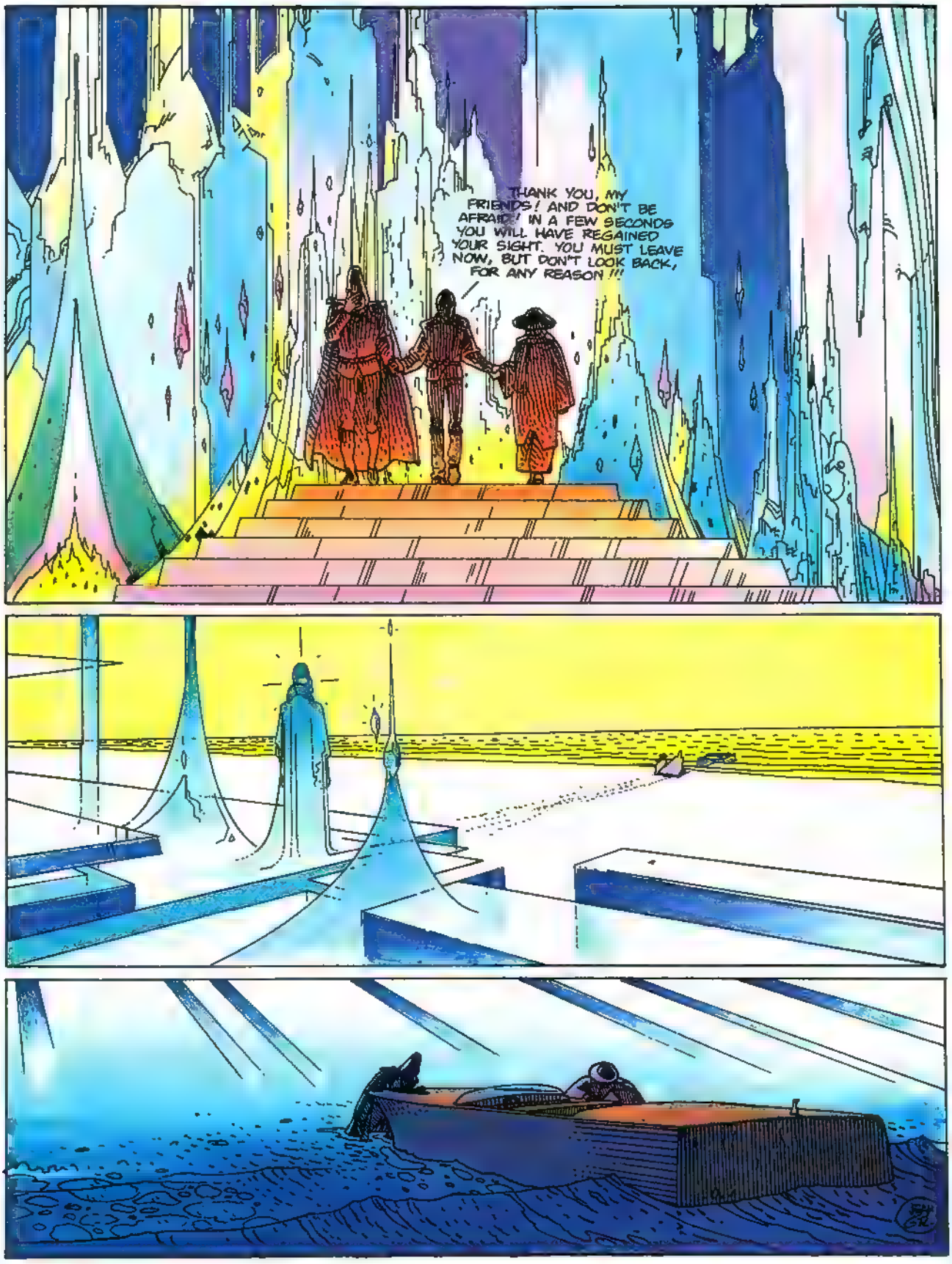


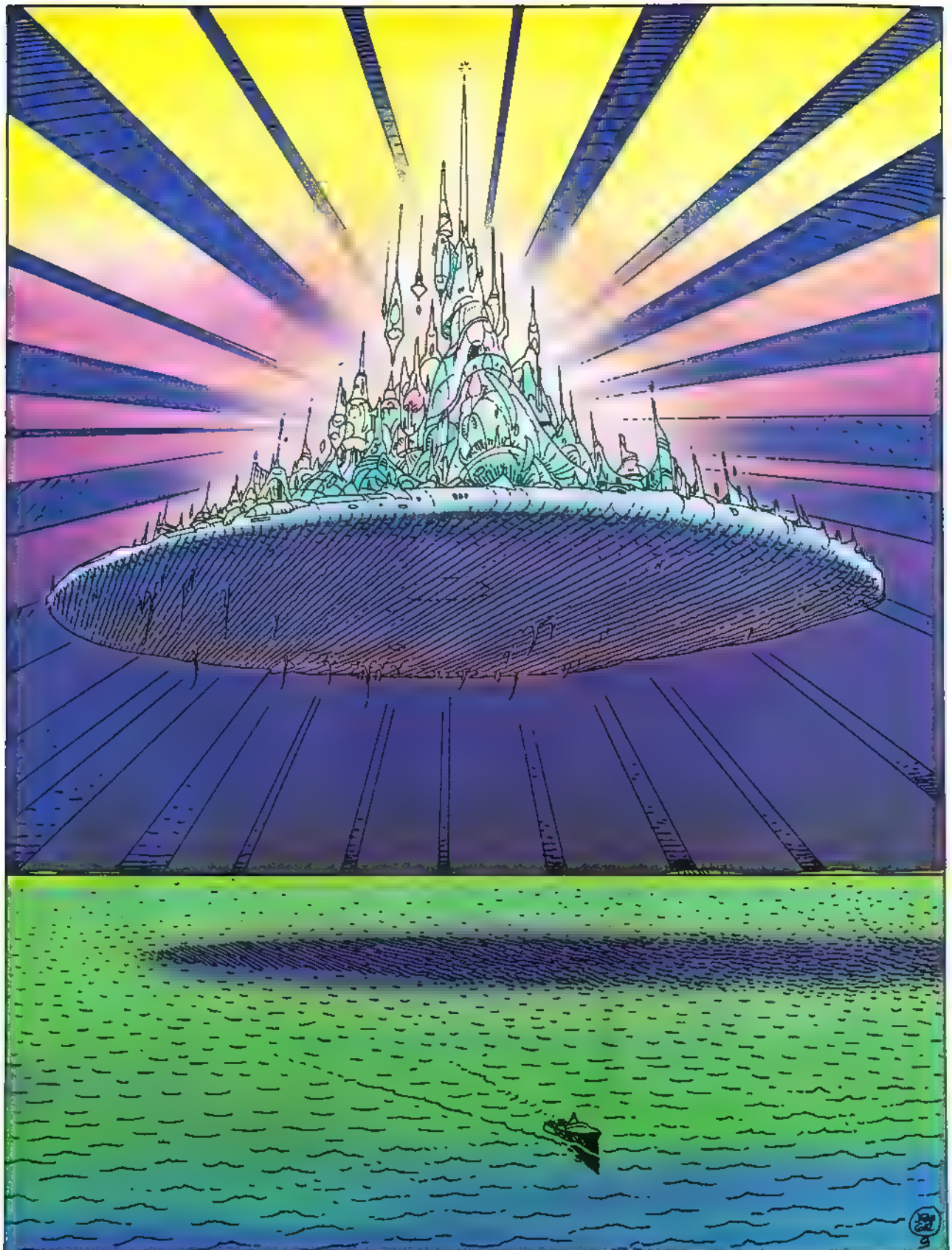









THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS! AND DON'T BE AFRAID! IN A FEW SECONDS YOU WILL HAVE REGAINED YOUR SIGHT. YOU MUST LEAVE NOW, BUT DON'T LOOK BACK, FOR ANY REASON !!!



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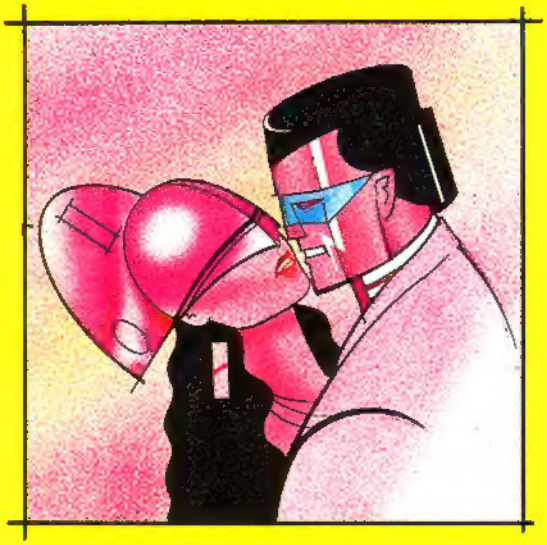

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The *Experiment*– Jimeno's classic fantasy.

Maroto's dream.

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